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# Saipan Tribune

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## POLL RESULTS

Which would you rather have a part-time legislature or reduce by half number of representatives from Saipan?

A part-time legislature **35**

Reduce by half number of representatives from Saipan **55**

Sunday, February 27, 2011

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Turmoil rocks Libya's oil sector, resulting in slashed output.

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The Libyan regime is passing out guns to civilian supporters in the terrorized capital.

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"The Last Airbender" is also Hollywood's worst film of 2010.

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# \$10M to \$12M in unpaid taxes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER



Inos

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said the government has yet to collect \$10 million to \$12 million in unpaid taxes from businesses and individuals; this is the reason why the Department of Finance's Division of Revenue and Taxation has been filing separate notices of tax lien against several entities.

These unpaid obligations include business gross revenue tax; taxes on wages, salary or earnings or withholding tax; hotel room, bar and jackpot taxes; and excise tax.

Inos, a former Finance secretary who now oversees government finances, said there's been an increase in the amount of unpaid taxes as a result of the economic downturn.

"Keep in mind that a gross receipts tax system requires the payment of the tax at the gross sales amount and not at the profit level. Because of the increase in the cost of doing

**See TAXES on Page 4**



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Calvary Christian Academy team members and their coach receive the championship trophy during Saturday's 9th Annual Academic Challenge Bowl at Saipan Southern High School. The team of Woo Jin Bark, Devonne Dotts, Joshua Mostales, Savannah Lyn Delos Santos, and Jun Seo Allen Park pose with their coach, Asia Michaleun, during the awarding rites.

## CCA wins Academic Challenge Bowl

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
[moneth\\_deposa@saipantribune.com](mailto:moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Calvary Christian Academy emerged as this year's champion in the 9th Annual Academic Challenge Bowl for middle schools, besting seven other teams from private and public schools during in-

tense competition on Saturday.

CCA garnered a total of 1,225 points among various categories such as math, science, English, music, sports, computers, and social studies, enabling it to waltz off with the first place trophy.

The CCA team, composed of coach Asia Michaleun, during the awarding rites.

**See CCA on Page 4**



### FREE FLU SHOTS

Simelson Saito, 4, reacts as he receives a flu shot on his thigh from public health nurse Tess Fabul, left, while the boy's grandfather, Sinchy Kapwich, partly hidden, helps him stand still during the Department of Public Health's flu vaccine drive on Saturday morning at the Ada Gymnasium in Susupe. Hundreds of children and adults got their free vaccination from 7am to 12pm. DPH says the more people are vaccinated, the less likely the flu will spread in coming months.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

**See story on Page 3**

## AFTER WRAPPING UP PUBLIC HEARINGS

### Senate to reassess proposed status for alien workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

After wrapping up public hearing on Tinian Friday night, the Senate will reassess its draft recommendation to the U.S. Congress on what immigration status to grant long-term nonresident workers in the CNMI.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday they may have to reassess the 10-year eligibility requirement and/or the additional five-year wait period for foreign workers to apply for a status similar to those granted to Freely Associated States citizens.

Hofschneider is chairman of the Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies, which held the public hearings, along with other senators.

"Based on what we heard during the public hearings, we will review and reassess the recommendation, especially on

**See STATUS on Page 4**



## Local

# Today is deadline for budget submissions to administration

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Today marks the deadline for government agencies to submit their fiscal year 2012 budget plan to the Fitial administration.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos urged agencies to comply with the Feb. 28 deadline or their submissions may not receive as much attention as the early filers unless these are from so-called critical agencies.

Inos said there have been indications that critical agencies will be able to beat today's deadline, including the Depart-

ment of Public Health, Department of Public Safety and the Public School System.

The Fitial administration has until April 1 to submit its budget plan to the Legislature.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the fiscal year 2012 budget could be \$120 million, down \$12 million from the 2011 budget of \$132 million.

As of Friday, there were only a handful of agencies that have submitted their budget, including the Office of the Governor, Inos said.

"It's not really that difficult

[to prepare the budget] because they've got a baseline to work with. The only challenge is how do they balance it? Or do they stay within their stated allocation?" the former Finance secretary said.

The House and Senate, for their part, earlier said they will do their best to pass a budget on time to avoid a repeat of a partial government shutdown as a result of a budget deadlock last year.

Inos said the Office of Management and Budget may have to hold internal budget hearings with some individual agencies.

But for House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), they will not be doing any budget hearings where agencies usually ask for more money than what the governor had requested the Legislature.

For fiscal year 2012, agencies are required to include in their budget calculations government contributions, such as health insurance, life insurance at 2 percent, Retirement Fund-Defined Benefit Plan at 30 percent, Retirement Fund-Defined Contribution Plan at 4 percent, and Medicare at 1.45 percent.



## PIT STOP

FILI SAGAPOLUTELE/SAMOA NEWS

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan holds his gift packs—which include two small cases of wahoo, a tuna canned product made in American Samoa—inside the Governor's VIP Lounge at the Pago Pago International Airport. Sablan is a member of the congressional delegation that made a refueling stop in Pago Pago on Friday, Feb. 25, en route to Washington D.C. following meetings in New Zealand and Australia. During the more-than-an-hour stop, the group had a chance to take a brief tour of American Samoa's main island of Tutuila. As a Pacific islander, Sablan had no problem adjusting to the hot late afternoon sun. The delegation, led by U.S. Rep. Donald Manzullo, had also made a refueling stop in Pago Pago on Feb. 20 en route to New Zealand and Australia.

## After laptops, e-books might come next for public schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After brand new laptops may come e-books for the islands' public school students.

Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero disclosed this last week, saying the Public School System began discussion on the matter since last year.

E-books or electronic books are text- and image-based publications in digital form that are readable on computers or other digital devices. These are usually read on dedicated hardware devices and can also be adopted in personal computers and some cell phones.

"We're looking at that issue...because we want to go into that direction. There's already a discussion and we asked

the Education Commissioner [Dr. Rita A. Sablan] to look at it because we would like to pursue this," said Guerrero during the distribution of new laptops to seventh graders of Hopwood Junior High School last week.

With the laptops, Guerrero said it would now be easy for students to access e-books.

He said e-books are particularly advantageous to students here due to the islands' weather. "It would be easy for our kids to get it...considering the kind of weather we have every year," he added.

PSS' One-Laptop-Per-Child project was funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the state fiscal stabilization fund. Over 6,000 laptops were given away to middle and high schools students in public and private schools.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Mayrienne Subang, 7, gets a flu shot from Commonwealth Health Center nurse Ruby Jacinto, left, while the child's mother, Mabelle Subang, right, looks on at the Department of Public Health's flu vaccine drive on Saturday morning at the Ada Gymnasium in Susupe. The mother also received a flu vaccine.

## Over 700 get flu shots

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

As soon as he saw the Department of Public Health's advertisement for the flu vaccine drive in the newspaper, 46-year old Renato Dones immediately marked Feb. 26 on his calendar.

Dones was among the more than 700 individuals who trooped to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Oleai yesterday to get protected against the flu virus.

"It's my first time to avail of the vaccine. I did it for my daughter because I don't want her to get sick again," Dones told *Saipan Tribune*.

Dones said it was painful for him to see his daughter Keren Chloe get the flu in early January.

"Her fever was so high that I had to rush her to the ER. The doctor found out she was positive with influenza," he recounted, adding that he and his wife also caught the virus and got sick.

To avoid getting sick again, Dones decided to bring along his daughter, who's turning 3 in March, to the flu vaccine drive to get the vaccine for free.

"This is a good program by the Department of Public Health so that more people will get protected from the flu," he said.

Jocelyn Songsong, public information officer for the flu vaccine drive, said that a total of 739 flu vaccines were administered to members of the public on Saturday.

"The flu vaccine is one of the best ways to prevent or minimize flu symptoms so we try to vaccinate as many people as we can," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Songsong said the flu vaccines were made available for free through the Vaccine for Children Immunization Program of DPH.

About 50 DPH staff conducted the flu vaccine drive and were helped by volunteers composed of students and members of Matua Riders and Team Rectify.

Songsong disclosed that they started conducting flu vaccinations in November last year.

"The flu vaccine drives are done as needed. There was a need to make it accessible to the public. There was a steady flow of people coming in and we were able to get a good number, although we had to turn away those who already got immunized in November," she said.

Songsong noted that getting the flu vaccine should be consistent with proper hygiene to avoid getting the virus. "It goes hand in hand with proper hygiene, which includes washing hands and avoiding sick people."

Songsong also noted that the public should always get the flu vaccine annually.

Joan Bahillo of As Perdido disclosed that it's been two years since she got the flu shot. She had flu about two months ago. "Usually, I wouldn't get sick for more than a day but two months ago, I was down for about a week," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Bahillo, 25, along with her two brothers and mother, said she made sure she gets the vaccine this time.

According to Songsong, over 13,000 vaccines out of the available 18,000 vaccines have already been administered since November, includ-

ing their outreach to different schools, government agencies, and other organizations.

For the 4,000 vaccines that remain, Songsong said they have yet to decide if and when they will hold another vaccine drive.

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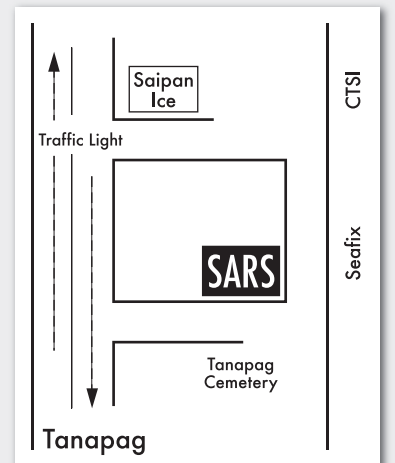
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# USDA seeks to resolve discrimination claims of Hispanic, women farmers

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Assistant Attorney General Tony West announced Friday the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans.

"The Obama Administration has made it a priority to resolve all claims of past discrimination at USDA, and we are committed to closing this sad chapter in USDA's history," said Vil-

sack. "Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege past discrimination can now come forward to participate in a claims process in which they have the opportunity to receive compensation."

"Under the resolution announced [Friday], USDA and Hispanic and women farmers will be able to move forward and focus on the future," said Tony West, assistant attorney general for the Civil Division of the Department of Justice. "The administrative process being established will give Hispanic and women farmers who believe they suffered discrimination the

chance to have their claims heard."

The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers.

The program provides up to \$50,000 for each Hispanic or woman farmer who can show that USDA denied them a loan or loan servicing for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. Hispanic or female farmers who provide additional proof and meet other requirements can receive a \$50,000 reward. Successful

claimants are also eligible for funds to pay the taxes on their awards and for forgiveness of certain existing USDA loans. There are no filing fees or other costs to claimants to participate in the program. Participation is voluntary, and individuals who opt not to participate are not precluded by the program from filing a complaint in court.

In conjunction with this announcement, USDA is launching an outreach effort to potential claimants that will include a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website, public service

announcements, and in-person meetings around the country. Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting [www.farmer-claims.gov](http://www.farmer-claims.gov). Beginning Feb. 25, 2011, individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider. (USDA)



MONETH G. DEPOSA

The Hopwood Junior High School team members are hailed second best team during the competition Saturday.

## CCA

From Page 1

chaleun and students Woo Jin Bark, Devonne Dotts, Joshua Mostales, Savannah Lyn Delos Santos, and Jun Seo Allen Park, were also awarded \$100 worth of gift cards from Cellular Pro and five movie tickets for each team member.

Second place winner was the team of Hopwood Junior High School; Marianas Baptist Academy came in third. MBA was last year's champion. Each team was awarded trophies and gift items.

The Saipan Southern High School chapter of the National Honor Society hosted the competition for the junior high school division.

Each of the eight competing schools fielded five-member teams.

### Good experience

CCA has been a consistent participant in the academic challenge and last won the championship trophy in 2007.

"It feels really surprising because I

didn't think we would win...but then again we made it! This is definitely a good experience for all of us and we're very proud!" said eighth grader Savannah Lyn Delos Santos, a competition first-timer.

Besides the guidance of the team coach, Delos Santos said she also self-studied for the contest. "I researched a lot and I learned different stuffs, things that sometimes you don't learn in school."

For seventh grader Devonne Dotts, it is always a "nice feeling" to be with the champion team. Dotts was part of the CCA elementary grade team that bagged the first place award for the academic challenge bowl for elementary division last year.

"It was nice and good! [For me] this is important because it allows us to increase our knowledge in different subjects," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to CCA team coach Michaleun, members spent one day a week to prepare for the competition. Before the Christmas break in December, each student was given specific guidelines on what areas to study. These efforts

paid off big time on Saturday.

"It feels wonderful to win first place. Last year, we didn't even place in the Top 3 so this is very exciting for our students and our school," she said, admitting she was nervous throughout the competition rounds and couldn't even look at the scores.

Because the academic challenge cuts across all subjects, every competitor needs to be knowledgeable in different areas.

"This sharpens their minds and I know whoever competes in this competition are well-rounded because they know about different subjects," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

### Questions

The first round of the contest was composed of 100 questions in various subjects. The final set was composed of 80 questions for the top three contenders. Questions were categorized as easy (five points), medium (ten points), and hard (15 points).

SSHS National Honor Society president Kaelani Demapan said all questions were formulated by NHS members and were verified by the faculty council for NHS.

She said the main purpose of the annual event is to test students' academic ability and their knowledge of the different subjects.

NHS also held raffle draws throughout the five-hour competition, courtesy of the competition's donors.

The eight schools that participated in the contest included CCA, Hopwood Junior High, MBA, Chacha Oceanview Junior High, Saipan International School, Grace Christian Academy, Tinian Junior High, and Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. High.

## STATUS

From Page 1

the grandfather provision of 10 years plus five years," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the committee will have a meeting on Tuesday or Friday.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Senate will be finalizing its proposal in two weeks, for submission to Congress.

The public hearings were held on Rota on Feb. 18, on Saipan on Feb. 24, and Tinian on Feb. 25.

The Senate's draft proposal is to allow foreign workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years by the time the federalization law was signed in May 2008 to apply for a FAS-like status, but only after five years or in 2013.

An earlier draft would have allowed those who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years by May 2008 to apply for a FAS-like status right away.

Ronnie Doca, board chairman of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said he believes that based on what senators said at the Tinian public hearing, which he attended, the Senate may change the draft recommendation.

"In my opinion, the Senate may remove the additional five years, which was not in their earlier draft proposal," Doca told *Saipan Tribune*.

But Hofschneider said there is no definite answer at this time on what specific changes in the recommendation will be.

Between 30 and 50 individuals showed up at the Tinian public hearing

on Friday night, according to Hofschneider, Manglona, and Doca.

Doca and UWM-NMI president Rabby Syed went to Tinian to observe the public hearing and give moral support to nonresident workers on the island. Doca said he and Syed didn't testify, because they had already submitted written and oral testimonies during the public hearing on Saipan on Thursday night. They testified in support of a pathway to citizenship or out-right citizenship.

Only 10 to 12 testified at the public hearing, according to the two senators and Doca.

In a phone interview yesterday, Doca said there were only about two alien workers who spoke up, and one of them recommended permanent resident status commonly referred to as "green card," which is a pathway to citizenship.

Doca said the second foreign worker testified that if a pathway to citizenship or citizenship won't be possible, then he's okay with the Senate proposal of a FAS-like status that will allow foreign workers to remain in the CNMI.

Doca said most of those who testified were residents, mostly in support of not only what the Senate has done to hold public hearings and in coming up with a recommendation to the U.S. Congress.

"One of the residents who testified said there should be a FAS-like status, especially for those with kids," Doca said.

Hofschneider said the committee will take the comments and recommendations as they finalize their proposal.

## TAXES

From Page 1

business and the economy, business has declined—either they closed or they just don't have sufficient margin to make the tax payment," Inos said in an interview early Saturday morning at the "3rd Annual A Walk to Remember" in honor of former *Saipan Tribune* publisher JP Pangelinan.

Since Feb. 10, the Division of Revenue and Taxation has filed separate tax liens against a senator and his wife, and 10 companies for allegedly failing to pay BGRT, withholding tax, and bar tax.

Inos said the government would lose more in revenue if it decides not to renew the business licenses of those entities that have unpaid taxes to government.

He said among key reasons for filing the tax lien is for those businesses or entities to enter into a payment plan with the government, for them to be able to settle their obligations while allowing them to continue to do business in the CNMI.

Misamis Construction, for example, which owes the government \$113,603.15 in business gross revenue tax based on documents filed in the U.S. District Court of the CNMI on Feb. 16, admitted owing the tax but said they already have a payment agreement with the Division of Revenue and Taxation. Under the payment deal, the company pays at least \$5,000 a month.

Inos said for some businesses, all they have to do is come forward and show proof that they paid their taxes if they think the Division of Revenue and Taxation has made an error.

"The reason why we say that they owe [taxes] is because we don't have any record of them having paid. But if they have information to support their contention that they paid, then give that to us and we'll make the adjustments," the acting governor added.

More notices of tax lien are expected to be filed by the government in the coming days and weeks. The government has no plan at this time to implement a tax amnesty similar to those in 2001 and 2005 under previous administrations.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

The team from Marianas Baptist Academy and their coach receive the third place trophy during Saturday's competition.







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Attorneys for Plaintiff  
Wells Fargo Financial

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

<b>WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.,</b>	<b>CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0274</b>
Plaintiff,	
vs.	
<b>FRANCISCO A. DELA CRUZ and PRECILLA B. DELA CRUZ,</b>	<b>NOTICE OF SALE</b>
Defendants.	

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Auction Sale Order, dated February 14, 2011, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendants Francisco A. Dela Cruz and Precilla B. Dela Cruz' interests in Lot 010 K 64, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

**Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The Sale will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Inspection of Property.** The property is described as Lot 010 K 64, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01, the original of which was recorded 19 AUG 1987 as Document No. 87-2911 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Francisco Ermitanio of Wells Fargo Financial, Inc. at Tel. No. 235-6044.

**Warranties and Covenants.** The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

**Conduct of Sale.**

A) **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

C) **Payment.** The successful bidder shall pay ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated. The balance must be paid to Plaintiff, in care of the undersigned, within five (5) calendar days of the sale. If the balance is not paid within five (5) calendar days of the sale, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and the property may be resubmitted for sale, or sold to the next highest bidder, at Plaintiff's option.

D) **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 15th of February, 2011.

/s/ Gregory J. Koebel  
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,  
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

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Attorneys for Plaintiff  
Wells Fargo Financial

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

<b>WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.,</b>	<b>CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0133</b>
Plaintiff,	
vs.	
<b>FRANCISCO S. ROSARIO,</b>	<b>NOTICE OF SALE</b>
Defendant.	

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Sale Order, dated January 10, 2011, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendant Francisco S. Rosario' interests in Lot 005 I 513, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

**Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The Sale will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Inspection of Property.** The property is described as Lot 005 I 513, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2084/92, the original of which was recorded 14 MAY 1982 as Document No. 14232 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Francisco Ermitanio of Wells Fargo Financial, Inc. at Tel. No. 235-6044.

**Warranties and Covenants.** The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

**Conduct of Sale.**

A) **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

C) **Payment.** The successful bidder shall pay ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated. The balance must be paid to Plaintiff, in care of the undersigned, within five (5) calendar days of the sale. If the balance is not paid within five (5) calendar days of the sale, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and the property may be resubmitted for sale, or sold to the next highest bidder, at Plaintiff's option.

D) **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 15th of February, 2011.

/s/ Gregory J. Koebel  
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,  
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

# EMO maintains high surf warning 'til Tuesday

The Emergency Management Office said yesterday that surf remains dangerous at 12 to 15 feet and is advising the public to stay away from exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and east facing reefs, as rip currents will be deadly. Mariners and boaters are also advised to avoid navigating in these conditions. Surf will remain hazardous until tomorrow.

EMO's high surf warning remains in effect until 6pm today, Feb. 28. High surf advisory remains in effect from 6pm Monday to 6pm Tuesday. Small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm Tuesday.

A high surf warning means that dangerous and that battering waves will pound the shoreline, resulting in deadly

rip currents. Coastal erosion or property damage are possible where wave action is close to shore. This is most likely near high tide, which occurs around 6am Monday morning and 4pm Monday afternoon.

Based on information received from National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, a large northeast swell will maintain dangerous surf along north and east facing reefs of the Marianas through Monday afternoon. Seas of 12 to 14 feet and sustained winds of 20 to 25 knots are expected to produce conditions hazardous to small craft through Monday afternoon.

"If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially when entering or leaving harbors and inlets and near reef

lines. Wear flotation gear. Also avoid venturing near exposed

reefs and beaches," EMO said. *(Saipan Tribune)*



## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations Evan Hans Benjamin Pua for achieving student of the month at Kagman Elementary School on Feb. 25, 2011! Keep up the great work son and reach for the stars! We're all very proud of you. Love you always, uncle BJ, Mommy, Mia, Jalen, and the entire family.

## Fisherman insists finding on the duration of his injury was wrong

### » Defendants say fisherman visited doctor only for the benefit of his lawyer

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A fisherman who had sued after being run over by a motorboat in 2007 is insisting that a federal judge made the wrong determination in relation to the duration of the injury he had sustained.

Pedro Pinaula, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to amend its findings and rule that the duration of his injury was at least 11 months, instead of just six months. This is Pinaula's third motion to amend the court's findings.

In opposing the motion, defendants Banga Bandhu Baidya and Seahorse Inc. Saipan, through counsel Richard W. Pierce, said that, while the evidence shows that Pinaula possibly had some pain on some

occasions as a result of the accident, he did not actively seek medical help for it and the court's estimate of six months "is reasonable, if not generous, based upon the quality of the evidence."

In the third motion, Horey said the court in its order repeatedly evinced its belief that Pinaula had not sought medical attention for eight months after the accident.

Horey said the court appears to have misconstrued Pinaula's reference to his April 2008 visit to a doctor to mean that that was his first visit to any doctor after the accident.

"That was not his meaning, and it was not the fact as the medical records demonstrate," said Horey, citing that the medical records indicate that his client first sought medical atten-

tion no later than Nov. 28, 2007, when he was examined by a doctor. Horey said that is only three months after the Aug. 27, 2007 accident—not eight.

Horey said records further indicate that Pinaula saw the doctor again on Jan. 7, 2008, Jan. 28, 2008, March 18, 2008, March 19, 2008, and April 21, 2008.

Thus, Horey said, the eight-month gap noted by the court was in fact only at most a three-month gap.

"Mr. Pinaula submits that three months, unlike eight, is not an unreasonable span of time to wait for an injury to resolve on its own with home treatment, and his previous figure of 14

months is therefore justified," Horey pointed out.

Pierce acknowledged that Pinaula did visit the physician three months after the accident but insists that he did so not for medical reasons but to satisfy his lawyer's needs for a claim against Seahorse.

"The medical visits consumed societal resources in order to bolster a claim for damages," Pierce added.

The case arose from an incident on Aug. 25, 2007, when a boat being driven by Baidya ran over Pinaula, who was swimming and fishing with a sling in the shallow waters off Micro Beach mid-afternoon.

## CDA's Quichocho to work on economic dev't, legislation

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The newest board member of the Commonwealth Development Authority vowed to work on the CNMI's economic development through a comprehensive plan and sound legislation.

"What we need to do is come up with a comprehensive economic plan designed by professionals, guided by sound legislation for development, and grounded with reliable data to build a diverse economy integrating all three islands," said Nathan M. Quichocho.

Quichocho, who was sworn in during Saturday's board meeting at the CDA conference room, disclosed that he wants a permanent economic development office created in collaboration with the Department of Commerce.

According to Quichocho, this economic development office will be staffed with a professional team of economists that are experienced in economic development.

"In this globally competitive world, we are being outpaced and will eventually be left behind [and] this is precisely why it is necessary that professional

economists stay, to deal with the dynamic global economic climate," he said.

In addition, Quichocho said he will work with executive director Manuel A. Sablan and legal counsel F. Matthew Smith in drafting recommended legislations.

Quichocho said compounded interest from loan judgments should be removed and deficiency judgments must be discontinued.

He said compounded interest "only ensures that the entrepreneurs struggling to make payments fail" while deficiency judgments "allow banks to continue to pursue lenders" even after all assets have already been taken.

Quichocho also wants to establish uniform criteria for waiver of interest to ensure that preferential treatment for possible waivers do not occur.

On Friday, Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) pre-filed Senate Bill 17-60 that would disallow CDA, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the Department of Public Lands from waiving interests on debts owed them, saying that this practice is "unfair" because it gives "preferential treatment" or "special favors" to connected entities.



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055  
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### SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT) PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-11 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The proposal package which includes the scope of work, selection criteria, and draft agreement will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Monday, February 21, 2011. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work- All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows~ "Proposal for tile Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements- Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ **EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO**  
Executive Director  
Date: Feb. 18, 2011



## BEFORE THE ONSET OF TYPHOON SEASON

# EPA: CUC needs emergency supply of chlorine

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has underscored the need for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to have an emergency supply of chlorine on Saipan before the onset of the typhoon season.

## »CUC fails to maintain 90-day backup supply

EPA counsel Bradley R. O'Brien said CUC has not been maintaining the required 90-day backup supply of chlorine on island.

CUC has not yet made arrangements for a permanent storage facility for the chlorine

supply, said O'Brien in EPA's status and summary report filed with the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday.

He disclosed, among other things, that EPA is currently completing its review of CUC's revised chlorination and disin-

flection program and chlorination long-term contract.

EPA stressed that the use of chlorine is critical to ensuring that drinking water in the CNMI does not endanger human health.

In November 2010, EPA

disapproved CUC's chlorination long-term contract, noting that the contract does not fully ensure that the total number of chlorine cylinders to be supplied will satisfy CUC's monthly and 90-day inventory needs.

CUC, however, insisted that

the contract is acceptable because it entitles CUC to buy all the chlorine it needs monthly.

According to the Emergency Management Office, tropical storms and typhoons can occur any time during the year in the Marianas region, but most frequently during the rainy season between August to December.

## Armatech opens Garapan branch

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Armatech, a company that deals with electrical jobs, motor rewinding, security systems, and PBX system, has opened an additional location next to Gene's Barber Shop along Middle Road across the Mobil gas station.

"We've planned this for a while and in the latter part of 2010, we finally did it," operations manager Bong D. Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*.

Malasarte said they also hired two sales and marketing staff for the new location and are looking forward to accommodating more customers from the island's prime tourist district.

"Since the opening of our Garapan office, we've already received new clients," he disclosed.

According to Malasarte, they



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Armatech's new branch is located next to Gene's Barber Shop along Middle Road across the Mobil gas station.

would still keep the main office in Talaya Avenue after Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe where they will be providing technical services such as generator repairs and motor rewinding.

Although they would accept job orders for these services in the new location, Malasarte said

the Garapan office will be more focused on getting more clients to utilize light-emitting diode lightings or LEDs.

Based on studies, LEDs are more damage-resistant compared to compact fluorescents and incandescent bulbs.

"LED lights are the trend now-

adays," Malasarte emphasized.

He said that they conduct demonstrations and testings in order to explain and convince clients about the benefits of using LED lights.

"We show them the difference in the quality of light produced and the wattage between LEDs and other light sources to elicit interest and encourage them to switch to LEDs," he said.

Malasarte said more private

businesses and households are into using LEDs compared to government agencies.

"With the rising cost of fuel worldwide, the use of LEDs would be a smart move," he noted.

LEDs are a little more expensive than ordinary light bulbs "but in the long run, the return of investment is higher than 50 percent," Malasarte said.

Switching to LEDs need not

be a one-time deal as customers can change their fluorescents or incandescent bulbs by batch.

"Even our customers in the hospitality industry, they change their lights by 20s and not just at one time," he added.

For more information LEDs and other services, visit Armatech next to Gene's Barber Shop across from Mobil station along Middle Road or call 234-8895 or 287-5525.



### INVITATION FOR BIDS WATER TASK FORCE IFB11-GOV- 003



Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the AGAG WATER SYSTEM WELL FIELD ISOLATION – PART A in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Install approximately 2,600 linear feet of underground waterlines (4 inch through 12 inch) with appurtenant valves, fittings, and pressure reducing valves.
- Installation of six (6) deep well pumps in existing well.
- Installation of one (1) new booster pump and appurtenant equipment.
- Connect to existing waterlines.
- Restore disturbed asphalt paving.
- Pressure testing and disinfection of new waterlines.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of \$500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **February 21, 2011** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m., on March 4, 2011**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **March 3, 2011**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked **"IFB11-GOV-003"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 23, 2011**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 23, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 23, 2011**, and must be received no later than **April 1, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **April 4, 2011**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **March 24, 2011**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial  
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan  
Director, Procurement and Supply



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



## INVITATION TO BID CUC-ITB-11-021

### SURVEYED VEHICLES

The office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC surveyed vehicles located in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Interested bidders must bid on all vehicles specified, for either Saipan, Tinian or Rota; or bid on all vehicles specified on all three Islands.

The bid form, list of surveyed vehicles and other relevant information may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Four (4) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-11-021, CUC SURVEYED VEHICLES"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 A.M. ChST, March 17, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Prospective bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the surveyed vehicles. CUC shall transfer and assign the surveyed vehicles to the prospective bidder in a **"As is, Where is"** condition. By accepting this transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the properties.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries shall be must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), **March 11, 2011** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, via email [msablan@cucgov.net](mailto:msablan@cucgov.net) or Joseph M. Fejeran, Purchasing Specialist via email [jfejeran@cucgov.net](mailto:jfejeran@cucgov.net).

**ABE UTU MALAE**  
Executive Director



# Fund lists drawbacks of 'monster' bill

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The board of trustees and legal counsel of the NMI Retirement Fund have seconded Fund administrator Richard Villagomez's opposition to a pending legislation he had described as a "monster bill" that would do

## Fitial highlights NMI's anti-shark finning law at USCRTF meeting

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force held its 25th meeting on Feb. 24, 2011, at the Department of the Interior's main auditorium. The opening ceremony was led by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono.

In his opening remarks, Fitial lauded the task force for its continued conservation efforts to protect the ocean's coral reefs. "I continue to believe that through collective regional and international efforts, we are able to carry out our objectives and reap success," he said.

Fitial noted that the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and Hawaii are also collaborating in the development of the Pacific's Regional Ocean Partnership by developing a governance structure to implement the National Ocean Policy, developing a coastal and marine spatial plan and addressing critical ocean-related issues facing the Pacific Islands.

Fitial also highlighted the importance for the region to maintain and improve the health of its ocean and coastal resources in order to sustain and manage the livelihood of the community and its resources.

Fitial touted the CNMI's newly enacted prohibition on shark finning. "I strongly believe that the worldwide decimation of shark populations presents a large threat to oceanic ecosystems around the globe and we have now taken steps to ensure that not only are our local shark populations protected from these practices, but it also ensures that we are not supporting shark finning taking place in other parts of the world. We hope that other jurisdictions will take similar steps to address this issue that affects the ocean we all rely on," he stated.

Christine Dawson, director of Ecology and Natural Resources Conservation for the Department of State, lauded Fitial and the leaders of the Commonwealth for taking a bold step to halt the practice of shark finning. She expressed hope that the increasing movement in the Pacific will soon be elevated to the national level as well. (*Office of the CNMI Governor*)

more harm than good to the Fund and other trust programs.

The issue was the center of a lengthy discussion at the board's special meeting Friday, where the agency itemized the numerous disadvantages and negative impact the proposed bill will have on trusts and retirement programs.

Senate Bill 17-43—passed by the Senate and now pending at the House of Representatives—proposes to grant beneficiaries and would-be beneficiaries of trusts and retirement programs the right to sue on behalf of the trust or the pension program when the latter refuses to bring action. The bill is authored by Sen. Pete Reyes.

Although the bill's provision states that all recovered damages from the derivative suit must be turned in to the Fund without incurring zero litigation cost, Fund legal counsel Viola Alepuyo pointed out the risk it would have on the Fund and its assets.

She highlighted one of the

bill's provisions that would make the board of trustees share liability if the beneficiary derivative lawsuit loses in court.

"Some claimed that this bill is good for the Fund because you don't have to expend in order to recover damages, but the other part of this bill should be of concern...because it could potentially expose the Fund to much more than quantified [losses]," she said. "I totally agree that any damages obtained will help the Fund...but we also need to make sure that we never expose the Fund, most especially its assets, to unneeded liabilities."

Alepuyo said provisions of the bill also take away the requirements of the rules of procedures of the courts. Among them is to make sure that the complaint is verified.

A section of the bill also seeks to give retroactive applicability because it covers unfinished cases and allows plaintiffs to amend complaints until no judgment is issued.

The bill also states that the stat-

ute of limitations for bringing a beneficiary derivative action shall be 20 years, contrary to what most laws cover which is six years.

Compared to most derivative legislation, this bill lacks "procedural safeguards," Alepuyo said.

Saipan Tribune learned that most derivative legislation requires the plaintiffs to show significant interest requirements and requires posting of a bond. Also missing in the pending legislation is a provision of special litigation that will first determine the merits of the complaint.

The bill also exposes the pension program to more costly benefits because it uses the word "intended beneficiaries."

The Fund has some 6,000 members and any potential surviving spouse and child could be an intended beneficiary, as well as the individuals listed as beneficiaries for the \$1,000 lump-sum death benefit. This could increase the number of intended Fund beneficiaries from 18,000 to 20,000 individuals.



### PROMOTION CEREMONY

Capt. Jennifer Buniag, left, pins the rank of specialist on James Jucutan during a promotion ceremony, Feb. 21, at the U.S. Army Reserve Center. Jucutan and Maegan Pangelinan, right, laundry and textile specialists with the 302nd Quartermaster Company - Detachment 1, were promoted from private first class to specialist. "I am excited to have been promoted and look forward to my additional duties with my new rank," said Jucutan.



Sgt. Joseph Villacrusis, a laundry and textiles specialist with the 302nd Quartermaster Company- Detachment 1, salutes Capt. Jennifer Buniag during a promotion ceremony at the U.S. Army Reserve Center, Feb. 21. Sgt. Edward Chen, right, was also promoted during the ceremony. Chen is a laundry and textiles specialist within the same unit and was promoted from the rank of sergeant.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 28, 2000

### Govt pressed to invest in education

House Speaker Ben Fitial on Friday urged the CNMI government to make programs aimed at improving the Commonwealth's educational system in light of economic diversification plans. Mr. Fitial said the government's efforts to diversify and revitalize the local economy is dependent heavily on a strong educational system, explaining that both small- and large-scale investments require qualified workers. "There is literally no area of new investment that makes sense for the CNMI, particularly any that promises the possibility of significant local employment, that does not depend on a well-educated local work force," he pointed out.

### Senate overrides Teno's veto on FTZ bill

In what appears to be a desperate attempt to hasten the setting up of free trade zones in the Northern Marianas, the CNMI Senate has overturned Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's refusal to sign House Bill 11-389 into public law. Aside from overriding the governor's veto on the free trade zone bill, the Senate also nullified Mr. Tenorio's rejection of six other bills, including the Tax Abatement Act and the Managaha Marine Conservation Act. The Senate's action was in contempt of the CNMI chief executive's concern that House Bill 11-389 failed to address issues surrounding the delegation of authority to decide on the use of public lands.

Feb. 28, 2001

### Gov't eyes fishing and farming coop

The CNMI government is eyeing the possibility of establishing a fishing and farming cooperative, a move seen to revitalize the islands' agriculture sector amid dramatic slowdown in garment manufacturing and tourism industries. The plan is part of the government's intensified efforts to minimize the Commonwealth economy's heavy reliance on only two major business activities, which are both vulnerable to suffer adverse impacts from external forces. The cooperative is expected to alleviate the difficulties faced by local farmers and fishers in marketing their daily harvest and catch. It will also allow easy access by CNMI consumers to fresh agricultural produce.

### 'Reduce labor costs to attract new investors'

The CNMI government has been asked to initiate programs that would build up a strong local labor force to pave the way for a reduced cost of doing business in the Northern Marianas. This would help the Commonwealth mitigate current investor climate constraints. According to a report submitted to the Office of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, building a local labor force would minimize the islands' dependence on skilled nonresident workers. The report said although labor cost in the CNMI, as seen by American investors, is low, Asian businessmen who are more likely to infuse fresh capital into the CNMI looks at current figures as high.

Feb. 28, 2002

### Ex-CPA chief sued for fraud

The Bank of Guam has petitioned the Superior Court to nullify alleged fraudulent transactions made by former ports authority chair Victor B. Hocog, in the transfer of real property to his children and Victor Val B. Hocog late last year. The Guam banking corporation, in its civil suit against Hocog, also named as defendants four of Hocog's children, Victor Val B. Hocog, as well as several individuals who have yet to be identified. The plaintiff, through counsel Joaquin C. Arriola, alleged that Hocog, who owes \$1.79 million from the BoG, conveyed by deed of warranty several pieces of Rota land to his children with intent to defraud his creditors, including the BoG.

### MVA: Government's help critical

The Marianas Visitors Authority said it is critical for the government to help the tourism industry weather the onslaught of a prolonged economic crisis that started with the Asian financial flu in 1998 and aggravated by the Sept. 11 tragedies. MVA board chair Dave M. Sablan stressed yesterday the need for the government to come to the rescue of the tourism agency by means of sufficient funding for its promotional and marketing activities. Sablan said the MVA is now exploring new markets that may help the local tourism industry recover from several years of slowdown, which was goaded deeper by the events that followed the crash attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last year.



# 'PSS will retain teachers funded by stimulus funds'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

All 105 teachers hired by the Public School System using the state fiscal stabilization fund will remain employed next school year, despite the expiration of the one-time stimulus funds for their salaries.

Board of Education fiscal and personnel committee chair Herman T. Guerrero said that PSS will do this by using the "off-setting" approach to keep these teachers at PSS.

"We can [keep them on the job] because there are still many teachers who are [non-highly qualified] at this time," said Guerrero, adding that the 105

stimulus-funded teachers will offset the number of anticipated teachers who may not pass the HQT requirements on deadline.

PSS, along with other U.S. states and territories, has until July 30 this year to comply with the mandates of No Child Behind Act 2001, which requires all school districts to fill their classrooms only with highly qualified personnel. Come July 31, PSS will no longer employ non-HQTs in classrooms. Besides classroom teachers, school administrators and counselors must also be fully certified by July 31 deadline.

Over 560 teachers are currently employed in public

schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. Of the number, 77 percent are already deemed highly qualified while the rest, a little over 100 teachers, have yet to meet the requirements.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that all 105 teachers being paid using stimulus funds are highly qualified, meaning they have degrees, valid teaching certifications, and have passed their Praxis tests.

Education Commissioner Rita Sablan earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that PSS is optimistic that all personnel will be highly qualified and fully certified before the deadline.

Guerrero admitted that due to the expiration of the \$32.4

million stimulus funds this fiscal year, PSS will face extreme financial challenges.

His committee will propose for the board's approval a \$36-million budget for schools in fiscal year 2012, an amount that the Fitial administration had described as unrealistic due to dwindling government resources, expected at only \$120 million next fiscal year.

As a contingency plan, Guerrero said classes in some schools may be combined to minimize the FTEs.

"One of the options that we may look at is the transferring of some students to other classes to reduce the number of teachers needed in the classrooms,"

he said, pointing out that some classes in high schools only have 15 students.

Although this may automatically mean a higher students-to-teacher ratio, Guerrero believes that this will help the system reduce its personnel costs.

He also pointed out that freeze hiring of non-certified positions remains in effect.

"All schools are being consulted regarding their budget. They need to justify their needs and carefully look at their staffing pattern," he said.

## Fitial raises CNMI issues to Boehner's office

From left, press secretary Angel Demapan, Speaker's Assistant for Policy Will Kinzel and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial share a moment on Speaker Boehner's balcony at the U.S. Capitol overlooking the National Mall and the Washington Monument.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



WASHINGTON, D.C.—Citing the need to raise congressional awareness of the CNMI's economic challenges, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial visited the U.S. Congress for a meeting with key officials from House Speaker John Boehner's office on Feb. 23, 2011.

Accompanied by his special legal counsel, Howard Willens, and press secretary Angel Demapan, Fitial met with Boehner's chief of staff, Barry Jackson, and assistant to the speaker for policy Will Kinzel to air significant concerns surrounding the hardships being endured by the people in the Commonwealth. Fitial pitched the need for congressional action to alleviate the rising cost of living and the struggling economy.

Atop the governor's list of priorities is to seek congressional assistance toward amending the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. He noted that the enactment of the CNRA has proven to be overwhelmingly detrimental to the local economy.

"It is absolutely disheartening because instead of improving our livelihood and enhancing our economy, this act of Congress took our islands in the opposite direction," said Fitial.

He requested the assistance of Boehner and the Republi-

can leadership of the House to explore innovative options toward amending the CNRA or enacting a separate measure to specifically address the CNMI's current struggles.

The Speaker's staffers were very receptive to the CNMI's concerns and noted that the leadership is definitely empathetic about the territories. Jackson hinted that such issues may be brought to the attention of the Natural Resources Committee or the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Fitial also pitched another economic development issue that requires congressional action that would pave the way for the CNMI to lure prime investment for a large scale shipyard and maintenance facility for U.S. flag vessels.

"Taking into account the impending military buildup in the region, having such a facility in the CNMI would provide very decent paying jobs for the people as well as training and educational opportunities," stated the governor.

Fitial will have an opportunity to discuss his concerns further with Speaker Boehner when the National Governors Association convenes its winter meeting on Saturday, Feb. 28. (Office of the CNMI Governor)



### NEWLYWEDS

Congratulations to Matthew W. Burns Jr. and Jennifer G. Bonoan on your wedding day, Feb. 26, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan wedding chapel. From your friends and colleagues on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### CCA board meeting to elect officers today

The Commonwealth Cancer Association board of directors will be convening a board meeting for the election of board officers today, Feb. 28, 2011 at the Department of Public Health Secretary's Conference Room, starting at 4:30pm. The agenda also includes adoption of minutes, appointment by the board to fill a vacancy (the appointee shall serve for the unexpired term of his/her predecessor, Robert Torres, who stepped down from the board last week), clarification of CCA policy on qualified expenses for the patient assistance program, open discussion, and executive session. For more information, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050, email [cca@ccamarianas.org](mailto:cca@ccamarianas.org), or visit [www.ccamarianas.org](http://www.ccamarianas.org). (PR)

#### SSHS to issue mid-progress reports

To all parents and legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students: Term 3 mid-progress report distribution is scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, March 3, 2011 from 3pm to 6pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents and legal guardians visit. All students will be released at 1pm. (PR)

#### Military training on Farallon de Medinilla, Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

■ Feb. 28 to March 1, from 7am to 4am

■ March 1 to 4, from 10am to 6pm

The military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on March 1-2, from 8am to 5pm.

The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This training will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

#### Veteran outreach on Rota, Saipan

This is to let all veterans, and all concern that on April 4-7, 2011, Tina San Augustine, the federal Department of Veterans Affairs legal administrative specialist from Guam, and Ruth Coleman, executive officer of the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs, will be on Rota and Saipan for an outreach on veterans' federal benefits. They will be also entertaining questions and assisting with claims.

■ Rota: April 4-5, 2011, 8:30am-4:30pm at the Rota WIA office

■ Saipan: April 6-7, 2011, 8:30am-4:30pm at the Office of the Military/Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill, building 1364

To make an appointment or for further information, call Coleman or Bernie Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. (PR)

#### Bases to take part in Marianas Shield 2011

SANTA RITA, Guam—Marianas Shield 2011 will be conducted on military installations in Guam on Feb. 28-March 4. The exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of military security personnel to respond to threats to installations and units.

Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions to normal base and station operations, but there may be times when the exercise causes increased traffic around bases or delays in base access. Area residents may see and hear increased security activity associated with the exercise.

#### Deadline for submission of Tier II forms on March 1

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reminds facilities in Guam, the CNMI, and American Samoa of the March 1 deadline for the annual submission of Tier II inventory reporting forms for storage of hazardous chemicals during calendar year 2010 subject to Section 312 of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. The Tier II reports need to be submitted to the local fire department and the leading territorial agencies implementing the EPCRA law. Facilities found in non-compliance are subject to penalties up to \$37,500 per day. Additional information about program requirements, reporting forms and reporting contacts may be found in featured story at website: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/superfund/chem-safety/> (PR)



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
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## Gadhafi no longer a laughing matter

By RAED EL-RAFEI  
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

**B**EIRUT—The latest speech delivered by Libyan leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi as viewed by many in the Arab world at the latest installment in his long-running comedy standup routine.

Many commentators said that Gadhafi appeared seriously disturbed, while others said his performance made him worthy of his own comedy show.

Gadhafi has long been a laughingstock in the Arab world because of his eccentricity. His latest, and very long, speech provided new and unprecedented material for humorous comments about him.

On Facebook, the expression, “The people want the president to step down,” which became popular during the Egyptian uprising, was changed to: “The people want the president to be treated.”

Al-Akhbar, a Lebanese newspaper, ran an article about Gadhafi titled, “The hallucinations of the colonel” in which the writer stressed that “psychological analysts are needed” in order to interpret the speech.

As his troops and mercenaries have taken to the streets, however, it has become increasingly clear that there is nothing humorous about Gadhafi’s apparent madness. As many as 700 people may already have been killed.

Al-Jazeera and al-Arabiya, the main satellite news channels in the Arab world, have been focusing on the brutality of the regime, despite their limited access to Libya. Al-Jazeera in particular has broadcast grisly images of Libyans killed by those loyal to Gaddafi.

Such images have particular resonance in the Arab media, where such scenes are usually associated with Israeli raids on Palestinians in Gaza or on Lebanon.

Still, the Arab media have placed much of the blame for the current crisis in Libya squarely on the shoulders of the West, which is faulted for not moving aggressively against Gadhafi.

Analysts repeatedly complain that Western nations have been reluctant to challenge Gadhafi because they covet his nation’s oil and natural gas supplies. Gadhafi’s decision to abandon the quest for nuclear weapons, along with his staunch opposition to Islamic fundamentalists, made him appear a reliable friend of the West.

To these analysts, Washington’s slow response to the uprising in Egypt and its apparent reluctance to act in Libya only serves to confirm that the West is more interested in the region’s resources than it is in the development of democratic institutions.

Arab people, who have long felt humiliated, feel that are finally gaining the recognition they deserve through these uprisings. And unlike past revolts, no single leader has emerged to articulate the people’s aspirations. Instead, the crowds are looking not for leadership, but for someone who can respond to their demands.

That’s why Gadhafi’s speech seemed so anachronistic. He spoke of his past achievements and his role as the leader of a revolution. Instead, the people were demanding that he follow their lead.

*Raed el-Rafei is an editor in Beirut for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.*

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ANOTHER  
KEY  
ADVISOR  
ABANDONS  
KADDAFI

## Four pillars are needed to build a stable economy

**T**he wisdom of the day for rebuilding the CNMI’s economy is based on increasing our tourism. Everybody keeps saying tourism is our main industry. While that may be true, there is also a weak side to that kind of thinking. This belief seems to neglect other important economic considerations that must be present if our rebuilding of the economy is to become stable. After considering all the arguments why tourism is and must be our salvation, I feel that this approach is at best one pillar to solving our problems and not the sole solution. Let’s see why.

This concept of one industry approach to rebuilding our economy is like building a house on a single pillar such as a bird’s nest perched on a pole. It can be easily knocked down with the slightest gust of wind. Remember, tourism is a most competitive business subject to many factors beyond our control.

For the CNMI to regain and maintain a stable economy it must develop at least a four-pillar economy. One of the pillars should be tourism. A second one should be some sort of light industry that will not destroy our environment but is conducive to it. There are several about this that we can discuss later. A third should be a bustling agriculture industry producing fruit and vegetables. A fourth one is to accept the military business. By balancing these fourth pillars, our economy will be able to weather any crisis whether caused by internal or external forces.

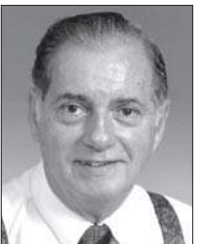
Recall the late 1990’s when tourism reached over 700,000 visitors a year and the garment industry was exporting over one billion dollars a year. We were enjoying an abundance of plenty. The government had a surplus of money and the private sector was busily raking in profits. But then the tide changed. Our good fortune suddenly changed. The rules changed for exporting garments and Japan Airlines stopped liking us. Then other external factors such as the Asia crisis hit us. Yet all the affected countries have recovered but for some reason we have not. Instead we seem to be going deeper and deeper into an abyss.

By putting the usual “all our eggs in one basket,” we condemn ourselves to a fragile economy as we have in the past. But by spreading our efforts we can better weather any adverse situation. If we hadn’t helped with the demise of the garment industry, we would still be enjoying some of its benefits. Imagine if 80 percent of the workers in the garment industry had been locals, do you really believe it would have been taken away from us? As someone said: “Those of us who refuse to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

Let us put forth our effort and determination to regaining a strong tourist market. After all we do have many wonderful benefits as a great family and group vacation spot. We have been able to compete with other surrounding areas successfully for many years. However I wish we would improve our marketing skills.

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.*



We need the entire community to be tourist orientated. We need stronger and better education for our people to become better hosts. Attractions are not the only thing that appeals to tourists. The reception they receive from all of us helps determine if they will come back and also tell their friends what a pleasure and joy the CNMI is. It’s not always about money that succeeds in selling. It is perception! Impressions! Think about the feeling that we receive when we enter a business establishment and the owner or some employee greets us. We feel at ease. Maybe you don’t believe me, but success in business is based basically on human relationships, not just the product. Think about it.

Tourism is a great industry. Let’s keep developing it. But it is dangerous to suggest that any amount of tourism will suddenly correct our economic dilemma.

Another pillar we should build is a small industrial complex. It doesn’t have to be one that requires thousands of imported foreign laborers. We have many skilled citizens right here if we can just pry them away from the comfortable bosom of the government where their latent talents never develop.

There are many products we can produce here without polluting the environment. For instance, we can do assembly work on items made somewhere else but have high import duties in the U.S. A bit of research will reveal what we can possibly engage in successfully. It is surprising to see how many items can be made here because of our American-related status.

We are blessed with fertile soil and a year-round sunny climate. I have repeatedly stated we have so much unused land on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and believe it or not, the Northern Islands. All are waiting for a bustling agriculture industry! I learned that South Korea exports close to \$200,000 per year of flowers to the United States and to Europe! Why can’t we get a piece of the action? Growing papaya and pineapple orchards are businesses waiting to be plucked. How about a sweet potato chip industry? Peanuts and mushrooms can be plentifully grown here. The list goes on. But sadly our imagination and determination doesn’t!

See FOUR on Next Page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Maynilad Series

We made the acquaintance of former PSS teacher airport security officer Augustine Taitano on our way out of Saipan. He previously perused our musing while we traveled so in the in-between times of perennial waiting for service in Metro Manila offices, I pull out the old MacBook that replaced the two *los ladrones* lifted out of my room not too long ago and hack trails of solitary reflections.

The term “*Maynilad*” is now used by metropolitan waterworks (formerly NAWASA); I am using it in its geophysical sense of Metropolitan Manila, by the river Pasig where *nilad*, the reed we gathered in my childhood to make mats and bags, grew. This series follows our focus the other day of the commemoration of the EDSA People Power of ’86.

In the descent of our delayed CO flight from Guam into the Manila haze, it was easy to think we were getting into LA. Carbon-emitting factories leave a thick cloud hovering over the city that stains our white hankies when blowing our nose at the end of the day.

In the early ’80s, while residing in Chicago, I occasionally headed for Hong Kong first before proceeding to Manila, for the culture shock of massive humanity invariably assaulted our claustrophobia and nostrils. A day or two in the crown colony acclimated us to hustling through a crowd. The first impact came at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport where it seemed like everyone and his cousin came out to gawk at the arriving passengers (not unlike the way the Marshallese did with the twice weekly stop of CO’s Air Micronesia in Majuro in the ’70s).

I was pleasantly surprised this time to find fewer airport personnel, faster immigration and custom’s processing, and the absence of a jostling crowd outside the arrival section. The international flights need to be moved out of the city as Seoul did in going to Incheon, Tokyo to Narita, Shanghai to Pudong, HK to Chek Lap Kok, etc. The former US Air Force Base (Clark) a few miles north has the infrastructure in place and it might just be a matter of time, hopefully with an LRT along, when international jetsetters get whiffs of *Capangpangan* beef at the tarmac. A Cavite coastal LRT is also on the works, which might lead to an alternate location south.

Metro Manila hosts about 12 million of 92 million Filipinos, a centralized arrangement left over from the Spanish empire. This is like treating the distance between Seattle and San Diego on the West Coast with only one point of entry, San Francisco. Puget Sound resi-

dents would first go to SF before going to Vancouver, a rather awkward arrangement.

The country does not distinguish between economic growth and financial growth, and the projected 7 percent economic growth is based on the phantom wealth generated out of the financial offices in Makati, or the remittances of OFW earnings where now, almost 12 million of the 92 million citizens reside outside of sovereign bounds.

But the resiliency of the people is evident in all aspects of the country’s life, in spite of the evident deep cleavage in wealth distribution. The city itself, a study of the preeminence of oil-driven vehicles versus rapid public rail transport, with all kinds of conveyances including the ubiquitous jeepney, only has three rail lines which has decongested traffic a bit but is not sufficient to provide efficient mobility as do the neighboring cities of Singapore, Tokyo, Shanghai, HK, Shenzhen, Taipei, Seoul, Beijing, etc. with their metro rail system.

In fact, getting from San Antonio Valley 9 in Parañaque to San Rafael Village up the hills of Batangas outside of Calamba where the South Superhighway ends, the time of travel is spent most on the front and tail ends of the trip; traffic is just too congested before and after the superhighway. Many people spend their day in transit.

Anyone who has been to Manila lately, and are in a position to compare it to other cities of the world, as well as its previous conditions in the last 20 years, will find the ambience, particularly of the Makati financial district to be gentle and civil, with the surrounding streets and estuaries cleaner than they were before. To be sure, one can’t make money bottling the scent of the *esteros* but there is vis-

By **JAIME VERGARA**

*Special to the Saipan Tribune*



*Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section*

ible attempt to clean it up and let the water runoffs clear debris as rain cascades from the higher elevations of QC to the Bay and its famed sunset. Plastic remains a challenge, particularly the deadly wrappers, but this is generally true of all cities even in the industrialized countries.

Crass commercialism has not drowned the qualitatively chic Greenbelt and Greenhills, though our brief sojourn may just reveal a longing for maturity in the restless land of our youth now that our vim is in decline. The carbon soot is not as thick as in some other cities. I remember watching China TV last year where one *Pinay* senator was ready to toot her horn with a remarkable figure of trees planted in the countryside until she saw the figures from China, and she genuflected in admiration 50 times over.

Whatever President Benigno Aquino III is doing, there is a sense that the nation is geared to hope. But not unlike the CNMI, that rests more on the shoulder of the residents than on the elected executive, and as those of us who remember the euphoria of EDSA ’86, we are too old to hold our breath!

## Letters to the Editor

## A Black History tribute

I don’t know how many people know it but February is Black History Month and I just wanted to share with you one of the great African-Americans in our history on this last day of Black History Month. George Washington Carver was an inventor who found hundreds of ways to use the peanut, the sweet potato, and the soybean. Many of his discoveries now play a major role in food products, plastics, fuel and the list goes on and on.

But what got me the most about Mr. Carver was his dedication to public service and the desire to make a difference for African-Americans during a time when it was believed that African-Americans didn’t have the aptitude to be a scientist. He proved that African-Americans could be scientists and make significant contributions to society. His legacy has gone on to inspire many African-Americans to pursue the field of science. Mr. Carver helped to transform our nation from his classroom, laboratory and agriculture fields.

Mr. Carver’s dedication to serve is something that truly needs to be noted. He was once offered a six-figure job (hundreds of thousands a year) when he was only making \$1,500 a year at Tuskegee and he turned it down so he could continue teaching—a true public servant. We need more dedicated public servants like Mr. Carver and we need to do more to inspire our youth. We still don’t have local scientists, local astronauts, local entrepreneurs, and the list goes on.

George Washington Carver was a humble man but he taught us the true power of a higher educational institution. We must encourage and do all we can to support NMC in hopes of it becoming a four-year college for our youth in the CNMI. Depending on mainland institutions to produce our “elite” is not a formula for success in the CNMI as it is a pure gamble to say they will return. In fact, it is almost common knowledge that in recent years—even without taking a survey—it is safe to say the return rate of educated and certified professionals is approaching zero.

I truly wish NMC the very best under their new leadership in hopes that one day NMC will be transformed into a four-year college where our youth can pursue higher degrees in the sciences and arts. Who will be the first scientist with an invention from the CNMI, the first astronaut from the CNMI and even the first self-made billionaire from the CNMI? The youth of the CNMI are faced with the same challenges that African-Americans once faced in being the “first” of their ethnicity to achieve these elite goals. We must inspire our youth and set the conditions for them to achieve these heights here in the CNMI. I have said on occasions that “so goes education, so goes the CNMI.” We can do well to learn the lessons of Tuskegee, a small black college, and George Washington Carver as this one man and college were able to change American society and the entire world through food products and all kinds of manufactured materials.

A special footnote: *After slaves were emancipated, thousands of slaves discarded the slave name of their owner and took new names. The name George Washington was the most distinguish name in*

*America and many ex-slaves took the name George Washington in hopes of gaining some level of respect and prestige. In the District of Columbia 450 freed slaves took the name George Washington and still today the last name of Washington is abundant and deeply rooted in African-American society.*

**Ambrose M. Bennett**

*Kagman, Saipan*

## Barrel-full of Monkeys

When I was a young child, one of my favorite games to play with was “Barrel-full of Monkeys.” The goal was to pick up a big pile of monkeys one by one by linking their curved, plastic arms to form a long chain. What makes me think of this? Well, it’s the facial expression of each one of those little critters, frozen in plastic, a big dopey smile from a brainless toy. That’s the image that flashes in my mind when I think of the creative potential of our Legislature and Executive branches, specifically as it relates to Public Law 17-30, the new BGR tax law.

Business owners now get the pleasure of reviewing their collections, filling out paper forms, and trekking down to Tax and Revenue to wait in a line and have their forms stamped 12 times per year instead of four! Gee, thanks for the help! Mr. Inos was quoted in the paper as saying “this multiplies the effort by 200 percent.” Hmmm, I’m not really sure why any effort would want to be multiplied, but business owners’ efforts will now be multiplied 300 percent (from four to 12)!

This has been portrayed as a “revenue-neutral” bill designed to increase cash flow, due to our government being to inept to slowly spend money over three months, instead of blowing it all the first month and struggling for the next two. So the government’s pathetic inability to control itself now falls on the innocent business owner to do it for him, like a baby that can’t care for itself. Actually, this is going to cost the government more due to increased costs to print paper, review forms for accuracy, collect payments etc. Perhaps the hidden scam is to assess penalty fees on business owners who pay late. After all, there are 12 deadlines now instead of four so the potential to be late has been tripled!

Another testament to our leaders’ creative cornucopia is the recent 2-percent increase on excise tax for Energy Star appliances. Excuse me, but aren’t consumers supposed to be getting tax *breaks* for using energy-efficient appliances? I read about this in the same week that CUC announced their generators are about to fall apart (again), and we will soon be overloading the grid as peak demand increases with the coming hotter weather. Something is definitely wrong with this picture!

Sometimes you just gotta scream!

**Michael Hall**

*Chalan Galaide*

## FOUR

*From Page 10*

A fourth pillar soon coming is the military market. Guam has already begun to hustle and bustle with activity in an aggressive manner trying to grab hold of any action they can get. Are we being aggressive also or are we waiting to be asked? Markets are made by aggressive people, not by passive onlookers.

By now you are sick and tired of my constant message or you realize that success is only an arm’s grasp away. Why? *We are blessed to have these beautiful islands with all their resources.* But for some strange reason we do not seem to know how to cultivate them to our benefit.

Let us stop waiting for the U.S. and the local governments to do it for us. Let us screw up our courage and with a firm plan in hand go to them and say: “Here is my plan! I need your help!” Remember change starts with one simple movement. We shouldn’t wait until a massive push is made. That rarely happens. It only takes one or two courageous individuals to begin.

Let us wake up and combine our energy and help ourselves. We have many educated and skillful people. We have natural resources and good soil. We have millions of neighbors who will buy the fruits of our labor. But where are the leaders to motivate us? Where is the *one* who will guide us and restore our dignity? Where are Chief Aghurubw and Chief Nguschul and the other great leaders of the past?

What are we waiting for? Outsiders to do it for us? Let’s get off the handout dole. Let’s restore our islands back to prosperity. If we don’t do it ourselves, I guarantee you—others will do it for us. And we will not like the end results. A strong building must have strong pillars to support it. So does a strong economy. But its main support comes from its citizens.

Yes, I am a visionary because I have seen other countries build themselves out of poverty with sheer determination into posterity. Sometimes I wish we didn’t have Uncle Sam to help us so much. Look at all the money we are receiving and now we are being blamed for not spending it quickly enough. Wow! This whole thing boggles my mind.






There is an old adage: Where there is a will there is a way! Let’s find it and do it! Let’s get off our *buts*! No excuses allowed! Let’s look at ourselves in the mirror and tell ourselves that we will! *We must help ourselves! Let’s do it!*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲82 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼77
Kosrae	Rain	▲86 ▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲82 ▼77

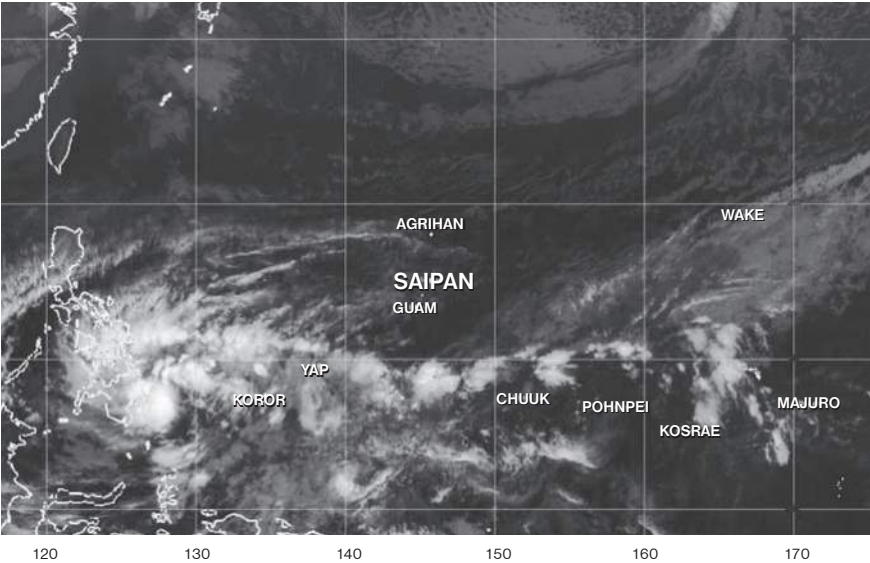
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲44 ▼25
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼61
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲47 ▼38
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼43
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼56
Miami	Sunny	▲82 ▼64
New York	Rain	▲50 ▼38
Osaka	Showers	▲54 ▼43
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲44 ▼37
Pusan	Showers	▲52 ▼32
Rome	Showers	▲56 ▼42
Salem	Rain	▲46 ▼40
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲55 ▼45
Seoul	Showers	▲40 ▼27
Tokyo	Showers	▲53 ▼43
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲62 ▼40

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
6:06 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:05 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
3:52 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2011**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance JTWC invest area 91W is centered west of Koror near 7N130E and is moving westward. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of the circulation northwest of Koror between 12N and 8N from 130E to 136E. Converging winds east of the disturbance are generating numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms over Yap between 10N and 7N from 136E to 143E. Scattered showers are located well south of Koror between 4N and the equator from 130E to 135E. A shear line extends southwestward from 18N180 to east of Chuuk at 9N155E then turns westward to end east of Yap at 8N143E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of the shear line east of 11N165E. Elsewhere scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of this feature. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers northeast of Kosrae and over Kwajalein between 9N and 6N from 164E to 171E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Tuesday	6:35 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:03 AM	2:37 PM
Tuesday	3:49 AM	3:29 PM
Wednesday	4:32 AM	4:19 PM
Thursday	5:11 AM	5:08 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	5:55 PM

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM</b> C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09605 6:20pm 7:10pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>GUAM-SAIPAN</b> C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:10am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:40am 9:15am 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:05pm Daily DL286 7:45pm 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 DL288 8:00pm 12:30am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50am 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:10pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> CA988 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> CA987 6:40pm 1:55am+1 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL285/173 6:40am 10:15pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT C09313/933 7:55am 9:25pm 3 via GUM C09313/893 7:55am 11:00pm 3 via GUM-Palau C09603/933 3:05pm 9:25pm 5 via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 11:00pm 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN OZ604/715 3:20pm 11:30pm 7 C09605/933 6:20pm 9:40pm 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ716/603 12:30am 2:20pm 4, 6 via ICN DL172/286 8:05am 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C0890/9606 10:55am 8:50pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:25am+1 6 via GUM PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM-Palau C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 4 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:35pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	<b>HONG KONG-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily				
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
  - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

- For announcements:**
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## Turmoil rocks Libya's oil sector, slashing output

**BREGA, Libya (AP)**—The massive oil terminal at Brega feels strangely deserted for Libya's second-largest hydrocarbon complex. After more than a week of turmoil in the country, production has been scaled back by almost 90 percent with many employees fleeing and ships not coming to collect its products.

The most activity on the site Saturday appeared to be a squad of boys from the nearby town finishing the job of tearing apart the local headquarters of Moammar Gadhafi's Revolutionary Committee.

The seaside Brega complex, some 125 miles (200 kilometers) west of the rebel stronghold of Benghazi, collects crude oil and gas from Libya's fields in the southeast and prepares it for export. It also produces some petrochemicals and refined products for local consumption.

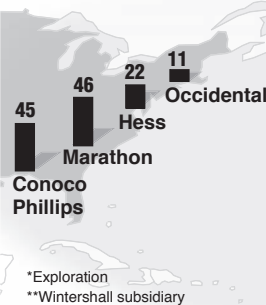
Since the crisis began on Feb. 15, however, General Manager Fathi Eissa said the facility has had to scale back production dramatically from 90,000 barrels of crude a day to just 11,000.

There are no reliable figures about the impact of the uprising against Gadhafi on Libya's oil exports, but facilities across the country have been forced to make sharp cuts. Most Libyan ports—the main method of export—also were closed due to bad weather, staff shortages or production outages, according to the International Energy Agency.

The IEA, citing reports from Western producers, said overall

### Foreign oil interests in Libya

Libya's state-owned oil company controls most of its production, but foreign oil companies help sustain its output through joint ventures. Production of top international companies, in thousands of barrels per day:



Source: Company reports, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Reuters  
Graphic: Pat Carr

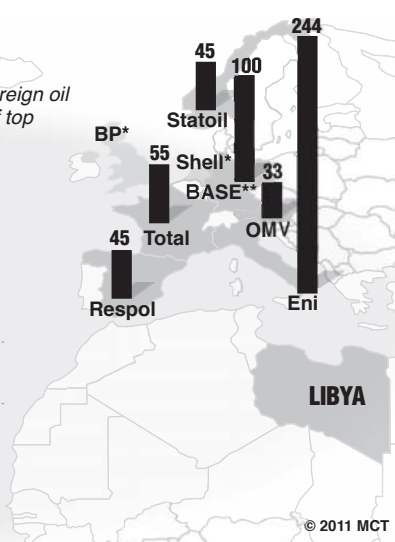
### Libya's oil industry

Total production, barrels per day (Third largest in Africa)

Total reserves (Largest in Africa)

Estimated net exports, 1.5 million barrels per day (Most to Europe)

1.8 million  
44 billion



crude production has dropped from 1.6 million barrels per day to 850,000. The unrest in the OPEC nation—which ranks about 17th among world oil producers and has Africa's largest proven oil reserves—has sparked a major spike in world oil prices.

At Brega, the huge spherical storage containers and reservoirs used to hold natural gas and crude oil are filling up rapidly with no ships to cart away their valuable contents.

Production in the southern fields has been throttled back until Brega can clear some of its capacity.

"At this time we are operating with the minimum required number of operators, technicians mainly," Eissa said. "The production from the fields right now is at minimum, it is not completely stopped but it is minimum."

On Saturday, a ship arrived

to collect some ammonia and methanol, but it was one of only a few since the troubles began.

Brega has continued to pump natural gas for local consumption along the coastal pipeline that is keeping the power plants

and desalination plants running, as well as providing the people with cooking gas canisters.

Ahmed Jerksi, the chairman of the manager's office and a 40 year veteran of the company, estimated the terminal was op-

erating with just 45 percent of its normal manpower.

Many employees left amid rumors that Gadhafi was going to bomb the plant and its volatile contents, while others feared for their families, he said.

The neighboring petrochemical complex of Ras Lanouf, some 60 miles (100 kilometers) to the west has experienced similar drops in manpower and has had to cut production down to similar levels, Jerksi said.

Ras Lanouf is also perilously close to the town of Sirte, one of the last holdouts for Gadhafi loyalists in central Libya, raising concern about clashes in the area.

The Gulf of Sidra is critical to Libya's energy exports. The ports of As Sidra, Marsa el Brega, Ras Lanuf, Tobruk and Zuetina handle about 77 percent of Libya's oil exports. Allegiances

in the Gulf of Sidra and the economic value they represent, therefore, are key to the survival of Gadhafi's regime.

Libya's uprising came to the Brega complex on Feb. 20 when inhabitants of the nearby village appeared at the gates and said the complex was now with the revolution. The facility's guards let them in and they went around and tore down the many pictures of Gadhafi.

The local headquarters of the Revolutionary Committee was also trashed, with air-conditioning units pulled out of the walls and a large-screen projection TV knocked over.

By Saturday, a group of youths had little to do besides smash windows and set fire to a picture of Gadhafi.

"We are with the revolution," said Eissa, the general manager. "We are supporting the change by keeping operations running to avoid the country's collapse."

Many of Brega's 600 foreign workers—mostly from Britain and other European countries—were preparing to evacuate. The British frigate HMS Cumberland, which took evacuees from Benghazi to Malta, is set to return to pick up many of Brega's workers. They missed an earlier evacuation at Benghazi because of the poor state of communications in the country.

Marianne Steeley of Britain has been working on and off at Brega since 1981 and is hoping her absence won't be long.

"Everybody's erring on the side of caution and they've certainly dialed down the oil and gas operation here and the ammonia plant, everything's been sort of kept on a very cautious level," she said. "I think they are trying desperately to get things going as soon as possible, I would certainly be very happy to return once things are sorted."



A Libyan oil worker walks in front of a refinery inside the Brega oil complex, in Brega east of Libya, on Saturday Feb. 26, 2011. Production at Brega has dropped by almost 90 percent amid the country's crisis because many employees have fled and few ships are coming to offload the product.

## Warren Buffett remains optimistic about US future

**OMAHA, Neb. (AP)**—Billionaire Warren Buffett wants Americans to be optimistic about the country's future but wary about borrowing money and the games public companies play with profit numbers they report.

Buffett said in his annual letter to Berkshire Hathaway shareholders Saturday that he still believes America's best days are ahead.

"Commentators today often talk of 'great uncertainty.' But think back, for example, to December 6, 1941, October 18, 1987 and September 10, 2001," Buffett wrote, referring to the days before the Pearl Harbor attack, a stock market crash and terrorist attacks in the U.S. "No matter how serene today may be, tomorrow is always uncertain. Don't let that reality spook you."

He said a housing recovery will likely begin within the next year, which would

help the economy and several Berkshire subsidiaries, including ones that make carpets and bricks.

Buffett also devoted part of his message to educating investors on key business principles. Buffett said the financial crisis of 2008 confirmed the dangers of investing with borrowed money because even a short absence of credit can ruin a company.

"When leverage works, it magnifies your gains. Your spouse thinks you're clever, and your neighbors get envious. But leverage is addictive," Buffett said. "Once having profited from its wonders, very few people retreat to more conservative practices."

That's part of why Berkshire always keeps at least \$20 billion cash on hand for unforeseen events or investment opportunities, he said. At the end of 2010, its cash reserve totaled \$38 billion.

## Obama: Government shutdown imperils economy

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Barack Obama says the economic recovery will stall if Congress can't agree on spending cuts and avoid a government shutdown.

The current budget expires next Friday. That means lawmakers must OK a new spending plan before the March 4 deadline to keep much of the government from running out of money and closing. The Republican-run House and Democratic-controlled Senate are bickering over how much to cut.

"For the sake of our people and our economy, we cannot allow gridlock to prevail," Obama said Saturday in his weekly radio and Internet address. "I urge and expect them to find common ground so we

can accelerate, not impede, economic growth."

House Republicans have proposed \$4 billion in cuts as part of legislation to keep the government functioning through March 18, and they have urged Senate Democrats to accept that approach to avoid closing it down.

Democrats want a short-term extension at current spending levels so the parties can negotiate over how deeply to cut expenditures and begin chipping away at the deficit and the trillions of dollars in accumulated debt.

But House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, insists that a short-term bill without spending

cuts is unacceptable.

Democrats have also rejected as draconian a bill the House passed last week to fund government operations through Sept. 30, the end of the budget year, while slashing spending by \$61 billion. Obama has threatened to veto that bill.

Both sides have sought to blame the other pre-emptively as the first government shutdown since 1996 looms.

In the weekly Republican message, freshman Sen. Rob Portman criticized Obama's 2012 budget plan for proposing no changes to entitlement programs, such as Medicare and



Obama

Medicaid, which are huge contributors to overall government spending.

A former White House budget director, Portman, R-Ohio, urged Congress to make the "tough choices all Americans know are necessary to get our fiscal house in order and strengthen our economy."

"Our goal as Republicans is to make sensible reductions in this spending and create a better environment for job growth, not to shut down the government," he said. "Getting our debt and deficits under control is the first step we can take, and the single most important step Washington can take, to get our economy moving and create the jobs we so badly need."



# Nation

## Govs to feds: Avoid causing states any more pain

WASHINGTON (AP)—Their states on the brink of financial catastrophe, governors pleaded Saturday for the divided federal government to avoid doing anything that would hamper the tenuous economic recovery back home.

Their message to Washington: prevent a government shutdown, abstain from spending cuts that dramatically will affect states and end even preliminary discussions about allowing states to declare bankruptcy.

"Anything that Congress does that will undermine our recovery is quite troublesome to us," said Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire, head of the National Governors Association, as she opened the bipartisan group's winter meeting. "We're asking for cooperation."

"We don't need a hiccup now in our recovery," she added.

"We are fragile."

States have made \$75 billion in budget cuts and raised taxes by \$33 billion over the past two years to make up for budget shortfalls caused by the recession. Governors drained reserve cash funds and oversaw several rounds of severe budget cuts, so much so that Republicans and Democrats alike now are focused on how to completely remake state governments.

The overall economic situation in states is improving.

"Recovering, not recovered," as Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, a Democrat, put it.

High unemployment persists. Even more dire budget situations are to come.

Over the next two-and-a-half years, states face an estimated \$175 billion more in budget gaps that they have no choice

but to fill. The hole is caused partly because an initial infusion of cash from President Barack Obama's economic stimulus law, as well as extensions of that money, will dry up in June. States received \$103 billion in Medicaid money and \$48 billion in education dollars to soften the recession's blow.

Gregoire and the NGA's vice chairman, Gov. Dave Heineman, R-Neb., recently met with House and Senate leaders as well as Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, and asked them to be mindful of how the loss of the money, as well as further spending cuts, could hurt states.

The warnings come just as the Commerce Department reported that state and local responses to the fiscal crisis were undercutting the national recovery,

slowing economic growth. Governors said the report only proved their point.

"For two years, governors

have said when we cut we impact the recovery," said Gregoire. "We know we have to make the cuts, but we can ill afford to have

Congress on top of that cutting us more because the result will slow the recovery in our home states and in the nation."

## Obama says Gadhafi's time is up as Libya's leader

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama dropped the careful condemnation, threats of consequences and the reminders to Moammar Gadhafi's regime about its responsibility to avoid violence. In their place he delivered a more forceful message to the Libyan leader: Leave.

The president called on Gadhafi to step down for the first time Saturday, saying that the Libyan government must be held accountable for its brutal crackdown on dissenters. The administration also announced new sanctions against Libya, but that was overshadowed by the sharp demand for Gadhafi's immediate ouster.

"The president stated that when a leader's only means of staying in power is to use mass violence against his own people, he has lost the legitimacy to rule and needs to do what is right for his country by leaving now," the White House said.

The statement summarizing Obama's telephone call with German Chancellor Angela Merkel came as Libya's embattled regime passed out guns to civilian supporters and sent armed patrols around its capital to quash dissent and stave off the rebellion that now controls large parts of the North African nation. Violence continued, a day after pro-Gadhafi militia-

men and snipers fired on protesters trying to march in Tripoli and their leader told supporters to defend the nation.

Until Saturday, U.S. officials held back from fully and openly throwing all their support behind the protest movement, insisting that it was for the Libyan people to determine how they want to be led. The refrain echoed the public position maintained by the administration during the Egypt crisis, when the U.S. gradually dropped its support for longtime ally Hosni Mubarak but never explicitly demanded his resignation after nearly three decades in power.

## Wash. couple rescued after 4 days trapped in snow

SEATTLE (AP)—John and Patricia Norvell kept thinking someone would come help them as they sat trapped for four days on a secluded, forest road near Mount St. Helens with only jelly beans to eat and snow for water.

But as the third and fourth days approached, John said he felt dark at times, even as his wife's spirits remained high.

The 63-year-olds from Vancouver, Wash., played cribbage, spooned snow into water bottles, and ran the engine just a few minutes at a time to stay warm and save gas. Sometimes, they turned the ignition just enough to run their heated seats

off the battery.

Their ordeal, which began when the couple's Jeep Grand Cherokee slid into a waist-deep ditch, ended Friday when they were spotted by campers.

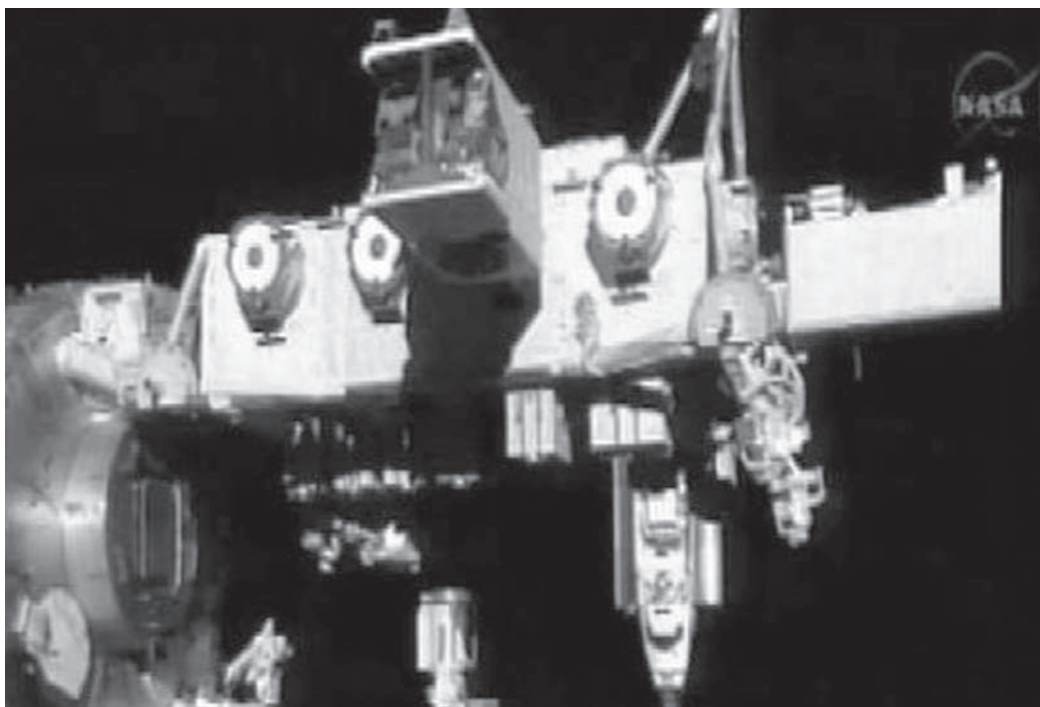
"'Good Samaritan' doesn't even begin to cover these guys, what they did," John Norvell said in a phone interview Saturday. "They shoveled us out and they pulled us out, they gave me five gallons of gas and they didn't want nothing in return. I'll never forget these guys."

The couple was 30 miles from the nearest town when their SUV slid into the ditch Monday during a drive amid

the snow-freighted evergreens. They wanted to try a new camera that John received from the Frito-Lay plant in Vancouver, where he worked for 38 years before retiring in January.

During their ordeal, about 2 feet of snow fell and the temperature dipped into the teens at night.

By the middle of the week, their family was worried. They went to the couple's home to find their cats unfed and called authorities. Their granddaughter's husband, Leland Foster, said relatives frantically tried to figure out where they might have gone. They hadn't used their credit card since Saturday.



### FINAL VOYAGE

In this frame grab from video taken from NASA television, space shuttle Discovery approaches the International Space Station, its final visit before being parked at a museum, Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011. The linkup occurred 220 miles above Australia. Discovery—flying on its final voyage—is the first in the fleet to be retired this year. Endeavour and then Atlantis will close out the 30-year shuttle program by midsummer. Discovery is the oldest of the three and the most traveled, with 143 million miles logged over 39 flights and 26 years.

## NYC rower tries for third time to cross Atlantic

NEW YORK (AP)—There is something about the sea that has caused Victor Mooney to lose all reason.

For years now, the 45-year-old New Yorker has believed that for all its vastness, the Atlantic Ocean is ripe for conquest; That a lone man pulling a pair of oars can shove off an African beach and slowly, steadily, row partway around the globe to New York harbor.

This is an idea he has refused to relinquish, despite repeated failure. When the 24-foot wooden rowboat he built by hand for his first trans-Atlantic attempt in 2006 sank just hours into his trip from Senegal, he went out and got another, built by a professional. When that boat's drinking water systems failed two weeks into his 2nd attempt in 2009, necessitating a rescue, he

chalked it up to bad luck, rather than fate telling him "No."

Now, he is trying again.

Mooney departed from a marina in the Cape Verdean islands at about 7:30 a.m. Saturday, according to the local port captain. He pointed his bow west toward the Caribbean, and if his luck holds, and his back stays strong, and he doesn't go mad with loneliness, he plans to land in Brooklyn in six to eight months.

Speaking by telephone from the island of Sao Vicente on Thursday, Mooney said he was ready for the nearly 5,000-mile trip. He had already begun sleeping on his oceangoing rowboat to get his sea legs.

"We did some test runs. All the electrical systems are OK," he said. "I'm enjoying these last minutes."

Succeed or fail, there will be no fourth attempt, he vowed.

"That was the deal with my wife," said Mooney, who has been on leave from his job as a publicist at the ASA Institute of Business and Computer Technology. "She said, 'Victor, this is it. Write it down. This is a family contract.'"

It is, of course, possible to row across the Atlantic. George Harbo and Gabriel Samuelsen of Norway did it first in 1896, traveling from Manhattan to La Havre, France. An Englishman named John Fairfax became the first to do it solo in 1969, sculling from the Canary Islands to Florida's Hollywood Beach in 180 days. The Ocean Rowing Society lists a handful of successful attempts each year, most involving trips from the coast of Africa to the Caribbean.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Fourth child dead after fire at Texas day care

HOUSTON (AP)—A fourth child has died following a fire at a home day care center in Houston. A spokeswoman for Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital said a child who had been in critical condition since Thursday's fire died Saturday. Details weren't released. Texas investigators are looking into whether seven preschoolers may have been left alone in the home before the fire broke out. No problems had been reported since the day care was licensed. Witnesses who lived nearby reported seeing the day care's operator, 22-year-old Jessica Tata, arrive at her one-story home in a minivan Thursday and then run out, screaming for help. Spokeswoman Jennifer Hart says another child treated at Children's Memorial had been released. Shriners Hospital for Children says two children being treated there are in stable condition.

#### Ore. congressman says mental health not job issue

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—An Oregon congressman facing calls for his resignation from some of the state's largest newspapers said the mental health condition from which he suffers doesn't prevent him from doing his job. U.S. Rep. David Wu told KGW-TV in an interview aired Saturday that he won't specify his mental health issue. "There are personal things, even for

a congressman," the Democrat told the television station. "Even for a congressman, there are some things which I think appropriately may remain private, and I think Oregonians can respect that," he added. Wu was responding to questions about his fitness to continue in office after bizarre behavior concerned his team at the end of the 2010 campaign and led to the resignations of seven staff members after the campaign.

#### Protesters across US decry Wis. anti-union efforts

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Rallies were held across the country Saturday to support thousands of protesters holding steady at the Wisconsin Capitol in their fight against Republican-backed legislation aimed at weakening unions. Union supporters organized rallies from New York to Los Angeles in a show of solidarity as the protest in Madison entered its 12th straight day and attracted its largest crowd yet: more than 70,000 people. Hundreds banged on drums and screamed into bullhorns inside, while others braved frigid weather and snowfall during a rally that spilled into city streets. Republican Gov. Scott Walker has introduced a bill that includes stripping almost all public workers, from librarians to snow plow drivers, of their right to collectively bargain on benefits and work conditions. Walker has said the bill would help close a projected \$3.6 billion deficit in the 2011-13 budget.



# Asia

## North Korea threatens to fire at South Korea

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—North Korea's military threatened Sunday to fire at South Korea, as Seoul prepared to start annual joint drills with U.S. troops—maneuvers Pyongyang says are a rehearsal for an invasion.

The North's military warned that it would shoot directly at South Korean border towns and destroy them if Seoul continued to allow activists to launch propaganda leaflets toward the communist country, Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said. The warning was conveyed

to South Korea's military earlier Sunday, it said.

"South Korea's traitor puppet regime must recognize the seriousness of the prevailing situation and immediately stop anti-(North Korea) psychological warfare," the KCNA said.

It accused South Korean activists and lawmakers of flying balloons carrying hundreds of thousands of leaflets critical of North Korea's government, one-dollar bills, DVDs containing corrupt animation files and other materials on the North's

most important national holiday, an apparent reference to leader Kim Jong Il's 69th birthday, which was Feb. 16.

It was unclear whether activists have launched more balloons since then and if they plan more leafletting in coming days.

The warning came one day before the start of annual military drills between South Korea and the United States.

Pyongyang has called the drills a preparation to invade North Korea, though South Korean and U.S. officials have re-

peatedly said the maneuvers are purely defensive and that they have no intention of attacking.

About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea to help deter potential aggression by the North.

The South Korean Defense Ministry confirmed it had received the North's warning. A ministry official said South Korea's military keeps a close watch on North Korean military movement. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing department rules.

Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin told parliament Friday that North Korea may launch new attacks this spring and that South Korea's military was ready to cope with any types of hostilities.

Tensions on the Korean peninsula spiked last year over two deadly incidents—the sinking of a South Korean naval ship blamed on the North and a North Korean artillery barrage that killed four people on a front-line South Korean island. North Korea denies it was involved in the sinking of the

ship, which killed 46 South Korean sailors.

The countries' military officers met earlier this month but failed to reach a breakthrough, with both sides accusing the other of rupturing their first dialogue since the November bombardment of the island. North Korea later threatened not to hold any more military talks with Seoul.

The two Koreas are still technically at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

## Christchurch holds prayers for quake victims

**CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)**—Residents held open-air prayers for the dead and missing Sunday on the lawns of churches cracked and shattered in New Zealand's earthquake while teams searched for more bodies in what could become the country's deadliest disaster.

"As our citizens make their way to church this Sunday they will be joined in prayer by millions around the world," said Mayor Bob Parker of the devastated city of Christchurch. "For now we are truly comforted by the thoughts and prayers of so many."

The death toll rose Sunday to 146, with officials citing "grave fears" for the more than 200 still missing and Prime Minister John Key warning that last week's 6.3-magnitude quake could be the country's worst disaster, surpassing a 1931 temblor that killed 256 people.

When the quake ripped through the city last Tuesday, the city's churches were among the hardest-hit buildings. Among them was the iconic Christchurch Cathedral, at the heart of the city, which suffered massive damage, its bell tower in ruins and 22 people potentially lying dead inside.

Still, many churches found a way to hold mass on Sunday

Parishioners set up rows of chairs in the sunlight and under the shade of trees on the lawn



An earthquake-damaged building is knocked down in Lyttelton, New Zealand, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011. AP

of St. Barnabas, an 86-year-old Anglican church where the quake cracked stone walls, shattered some stain glass windows and left the tower sinking. Wails of passing police cars and the roar of a military chopper overhead occasionally interrupted the sermon.

Rev. Philip Robinson later tried to rally a somber crowd.

"This is not called Christchurch for nothing," he said, drawing smiles from a few. "We will rise again."

After the service, people gathered by a table on the lawn to have coffee, scones and banana

bread, and to comfort those still struggling. Megan Blakie, 45, stood in the crowd, eyes brimming with tears.

"I just am struggling with where's God in all of this?" she said. "It's not shattered my faith, but it's hard to keep going."

Other Christchurch residents chose spent their Sunday morning in more secular surroundings, such as the botanical gardens, where oak trees insulate the pathways from the noise of the city's rescue and recovery operations.

The Robb family, brothers Neville and Graeme and their

wives Gael and Michelle, met in the gardens, as they do every Sunday, to walk their dogs.

"You feel guilty doing something so normal when there is so much suffering," Michelle Robb said. "But the dogs need walking."

The multinational team of more than 600 rescuers scrambling through wrecked buildings in the central city last pulled a survivor from the ruins at mid-afternoon Wednesday, making it four days without finding anyone alive.

Rescue coordinator Jim Stuart-Black said Sunday that rescuers

were "still in active rescue mode" and continued "to look in every possible place for survivors," but that remaining survivors was increasingly unlikely.

"We are starting to move into the miracle stage of the opera-

tion," he said.

Engineers and planners said the city's decimated central area may be completely unusable for months to come and that a third of the buildings may need to be razed and rebuilt.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Philippine rebels kill 3 soldiers, wound 4 others

**GAMU, Philippines (AP)** — Philippine police say suspected communist rebels have killed three soldiers and wounded four others in an ambush despite the recent resumption of peace talks. Police Senior Superintendent Laurence Mombael says New People's Army rebels fired at about 30 army troops on patrol near Asipulo township in northern mountainous Ifugao province on Saturday then fled. Mombael said Sunday that reinforcement troops brought by a helicopter later clashed with and wounded an unspecified number of fleeing rebels.

#### India starts evacuation flights from Libya

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—Air India is sending two aircraft to evacuate some of the 18,000 Indian citizens from violence-stricken Libya. The Press Trust of India news agency says the Libyan government has given clearance for the Boeing 747 and Airbus 330 to operate from the Tripoli airport over the next 10 days. Airlines spokesman Kanwaljeet Rattan says one aircraft flying from Mumbai has reached Tripoli and is expected to return by midnight Saturday. Both planes have been chartered by the External Affairs Ministry. Along with the evacuation flights, the passenger ship Scotia Prince is expected to dock at the Libyan port of Benghazi on Monday to ferry more than 1,200 passengers to Alexandria, Egypt, from where Air India flights will take them back home.

#### Bomber kills at least 4 in northwest Afghanistan

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—

Amid screams of "Suicide bomber! Suicide bomber!" an insurgent detonated his vest of explosives Saturday, killing at least four people at a sports field in northwest Afghanistan. It was the latest in a spate of attacks that have hit nearly every corner of the country in recent weeks. A roadside bomb also killed nine people Saturday near the eastern city of Khost. The suicide bomber struck a game of buzkashi, a traditional Afghan sport in which players on horseback wrangle for a headless goat carcass, said Abdul Haq Shafiq, governor of Faryab province. Besides the dead, 19 people were wounded, said Shafiq. About 2,000 people were at the event when the blast occurred.

#### Malaysia police detain dozens of Indian protesters

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)**—Malaysian police arrested dozens of ethnic Indians on Sunday in a clampdown on a protest against a high school literature book that was slammed for denigrating the minority community. Police set up roadblocks in the country's biggest city, Kuala Lumpur, amid tight security around the landmark Petronas Twin Towers, where the protest was to be held. The main protest leader, lawyer P.Uthayakumar, was among those rounded up early Sunday as he was leaving home, said his colleague S.Jayathas, who also was detained. He said more than 100 Indians were believed to have been picked up. Some 50 protesters who managed to escape the police dragnet gathered at a temple in the city, holding banners and shouting "Ban Interlok" and "Don't insult the Indian community" before dispersing.

## China plans sweeping economic change

**BEIJING (AP)**—China's leadership is promising to steer the economy in a new direction in its blueprint for the next five years that would empower consumers and narrow a yawning wealth gap but require politically contentious reforms.

The latest Five-Year Plan—a throwback to central planning but a useful roadmap of party goals—calls for creating self-sustaining growth based on domestic consumption and reducing China's reliance on exports and investment. That will require a cut in subsidies to state

industries and curbs on local development plans that could provoke a backlash among some in the ruling Communist Party.

The leadership has said for years that China needs to alter a system Premier Wen Jiabao has declared "unbalanced, uncoordinated and unsustainable." But they avoided major reforms until the global crisis wiped out millions of export-dependent factory jobs and drove home the danger of overreliance on trade.

The plan was approved by party leaders in October and details are due to be announced

at the annual meeting of China's largely powerless legislature that opens Saturday.

"The roadmap is clear, but the extent to which the political will and power is sufficient remains to be seen," said Alistair Thornton, China analyst for IHS Global Insight.

If carried out, the plan could drive a far-reaching transformation of the world's second-largest economy from low-cost factory into a major consumer market.

It would shift money from companies to households, which

could narrow the gulf between a rich elite and fledgling middle class who have profited from economic reform and China's poor majority. More consumer demand could help to boost imports, narrowing China's trade surplus with the United States and other major economies.

The wide-ranging plan also extends to areas from foreign policy to family planning to rural irrigation. It promises more rural health care spending and to help out-of-work farmers find jobs in cities—a step that also could pay off by helping to promote growth of service industries and consumption.



## World

# Armed pro-Gadhafi gangs roll in Libyan capital

By BEN HUBBARD and  
MAGGIE MICHAEL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**TRIPOLI, Libya** (AP)—The embattled Libyan regime passed out guns to civilian supporters, set up checkpoints Saturday and sent armed patrols roving the terrorized capital to try to maintain control of Moammar Gadhafi's stronghold and quash dissent as rebels consolidate control elsewhere in the North African nation.

As violence mounted, Gadhafi came under growing pressure from the international community to halt the crackdown on his people. Echoing moves by the United States, Britain and other nations, the U.N. Security Council on Saturday imposed sanctions, including an arms embargo and a travel ban, and said the International Criminal Court in the Hague should investigate.

Residents of its eastern Tajoura district spread concrete blocks, large rocks and even chopped-down palm trees as makeshift barricades to prevent the SUVs filled with young men wielding automatic weapons from entering their neighborhood—a hotspot of previous protests.

With tensions running high in Tripoli, scores of people in the neighborhood turned out at a funeral for a 44-year-old man killed in clashes with pro-regime forces. Anwar Algadi was killed Friday, with the cause of death listed as “a live bullet to the head,” according to his brother, Mohammed.

Armed men in green arm-bands, along with uniformed security forces check those trying to enter the district, where graffiti that says “Gadhafi, you Jew,” “Down to the dog,” and “Tajoura is free” was scrawled on walls.

Outside the capital, rebels held a long swath of about half of Libya's 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) Mediterranean coastline where most of the population lives, and even captured a



A boy leaps over felled palm trees used as roadblocks by residents in the Tajoura district of eastern Tripoli, Libya, Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011.

brigadier general and a soldier Saturday as the Libyan army tried to retake an air base east of Tripoli. The state-run news agency also said the opposition held an air defense commander and several other officers.

On Friday, pro-Gadhafi militiamen—including snipers—fired on protesters trying to mount the first significant anti-government marches in days in Tripoli.

Gadhafi, speaking from the ramparts of a historic Tripoli fort, told supporters to prepare to defend the nation as he faced the biggest challenge to his 42-year rule.

“At the suitable time, we will open the arms depot so all Libyans and tribes become armed, so that Libya becomes red with fire,” Gadhafi said.

The international community toughened its response to the bloodshed, while Americans and other foreigners were evacuated from the chaos roiling Libya.

In New York, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to slap sanctions on the Gadhafi regime. The council imposed an arms embargo and called on U.N. member states to freeze the assets of Gadhafi and his chil-

dren. The council also imposed a travel ban on the Gadhafi family and 10 close associates.

Council members also agreed 15-0 to refer the regime's deadly crackdown to a permanent war crimes tribunal for an investigation of possible crimes against humanity.

The action came after U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said some estimates indicate more than 1,000 people have been killed in less than two weeks since the protests broke out in Libya.

In Tripoli, most residents stayed in their homes Saturday, terrified of bands of armed men at checkpoints and patrolling the city.

A 40-year-old business owner said he had seen Gadhafi supporters enter one of the regime's Revolutionary Committee headquarters Saturday and leave with arms. He said the regime is offering a car and money to any supporters bringing three people with them to join the effort.

“Someone from the old revolutionary committees will go with them so they'll be four,” the witness said when reached by telephone from Cairo. “They'll arm them to drive around the

city and terrorize people.”

Other residents reported seeing trucks full of civilians with automatic rifles patrolling their neighborhoods. Many were young, even teenagers, and wore green arm bands or cloths on their heads to show their affiliation to the regime, residents said. All spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Tripoli, home to about a third of Libya's population of

6 million, is the center of the eroding territory that Gadhafi still controls.

Even in the Gadhafi-held pocket of northwestern Libya around Tripoli, several cities have also fallen to the rebellion. Militiamen and pro-Gadhafi troops were repelled when they launched attacks trying to take back opposition-held territory in Zawiya and Misrata in fighting that killed at least 30 people.

Gadhafi's son, Seif al-Islam, told foreign journalists invited by the government to Tripoli that there were no casualties in Tripoli and that the capital was “calm.”

“Everything is peaceful,” he said. “Peace is coming back to our country.”

He said the regime wants negotiations with the opposition and said there were “two minor problems” in Misrata and Zawiya. There, he said, “we are dealing with terrorist people,” but he hoped to reach a peaceful settlement with them.

Most shops in Tripoli were closed and long lines formed at bakeries as people ventured out for supplies.

In the Souq al-Jomaa neighborhood, piles of ashes stood in front of a burned-out police sta-

tion. Graffiti on the walls read, “Down, down with Gadhafi.” Elsewhere, shattered glass and rocks littered the streets.

A law school graduate walking to his house in the Fashloun area said he had seen many people killed by snipers in recent days.

“People are panicked, they are terrified. Few leave their houses. When it gets dark, you can't walk in the streets because anybody who walks is subject to be shot to death,” he said.

He said Gadhafi's use of force against protesters had turned him against the regime.

“We Libyans cannot hear that there were other Libyans killed and remain silent,” he said. “Now everything he says is a lie.”

In Tripoli's Green Square, where state television has shown crowds of Gadhafi supporters in recent days, armed security men in blue uniforms were stationed around the plaza. Pro-Gadhafi billboards and posters were everywhere. A burned restaurant was the only sign of the unrest.

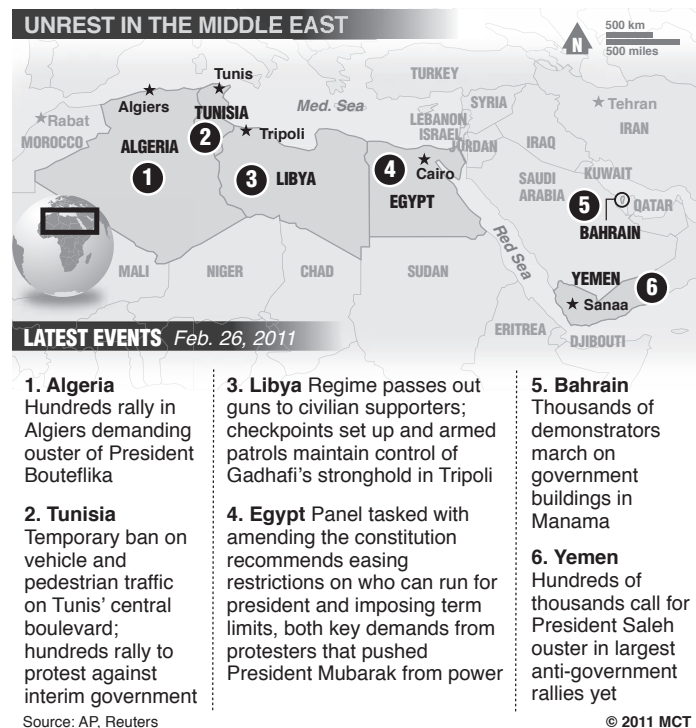
Supporters in about 50 cars covered with Gadhafi posters drove slowly around the square, waving green flags from the windows and honking horns. A camera crew filmed the procession.

Taxi driver Nasser Mohammed was among those who had a picture of Gadhafi and a green flag on his car.

“Have you heard the speech last night?” he asked. “It was great. Libyans don't want anyone but Gadhafi. He gave us loans.”

Mohammed, 25, said each family will receive 500 Libyan dinars (about \$400) after the start of the protests, plus the equivalent of about \$100 credit for phone service. State TV said the distribution will take place starting Sunday.

Gadhafi loyalists manned a street barricade, turning away motorists trying to enter. After turning around, the drivers were then stopped at another checkpoint, manned by armed men in uniform, who searched cars and checked IDs of drivers and passengers.



## WORLD BRIEFS

### Attack cripples Iraq's largest refinery, kills 1

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Gunmen stormed Iraq's largest oil refinery and bombed the facility Saturday, forcing operations to shut down at a time when Iraqis are already suffering through electricity shortages and lines at the gas pump. The attack north of Baghdad casts doubt on the Iraqi government's ability to protect its vital infrastructure and could shake already nervous international investors. If not fixed swiftly, the shutdown will likely further fuel anger over a lack of public services that led to violent nationwide protests last week. The Beiji oil refinery accounts for a little more than a quarter of the country's entire refining capacity.

### Egypt proposes competitive presidential elections

**CAIRO** (AP)—A constitutional reform panel on Saturday recommended opening Egypt's presidential elections to competition and imposing a two-term limit on future presidents—a dramatic shift from a system that allowed the ousted Hosni Mubarak to rule for three decades. The changes are among 10 proposed constitutional

amendments that are to be put to a popular referendum later this year. The proposals appeared to address many of the demands of the reform movement that help lead the 18-day popular uprising that forced Mubarak to step down on Feb. 11. But some Egyptians worry that the proposed changes don't go far enough to ensure a transition to democratic rule, and could allow the entrenched old guard to maintain its grip on power.

### In setback, Iran to unload fuel from nuclear plant

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—In a major setback to Iran's nuclear program, technicians will have to unload fuel from the country's first atomic power plant because of an unspecified safety concern, a senior government official said. The vague explanation raised questions about whether the mysterious computer worm known as Stuxnet might have caused more damage at the Bushehr plant than previously acknowledged. Other explanations are possible for unloading the fuel rods from the reactor core of the newly completed plant, including routine technical

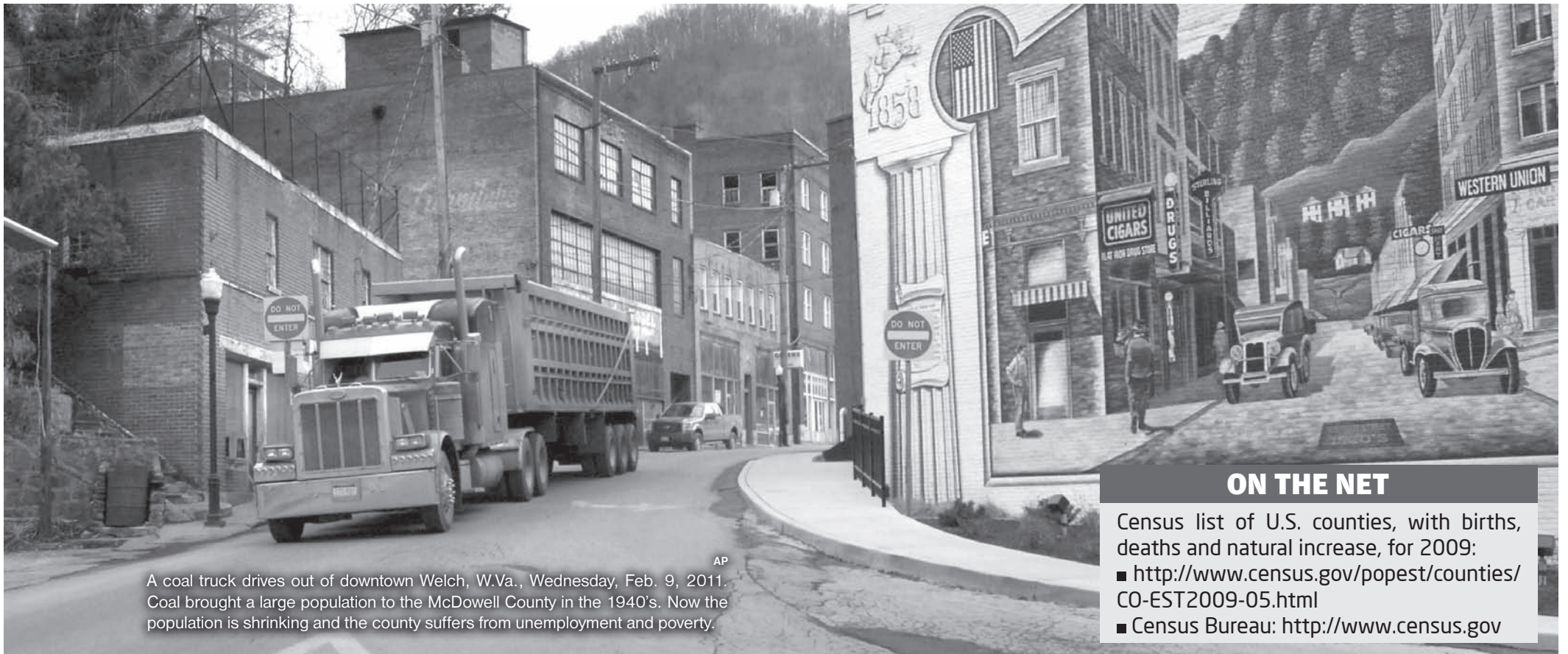
difficulties. While the exact reason behind the fuel's removal is unclear, the admission is seen as a major embarrassment for Tehran because it has touted Bushehr—Iran's first atomic power plant—as its showcase nuclear facility and sees it as a source of national pride.

### UK military planes rescue 150 from Libyan desert

**LONDON** (AP)—British military planes entered Libyan air space to rescue oil workers and others from desert locations Saturday in a daring and secret mission meant to save those unable to flee escalating violence. The C-130 Hercules planes, carrying Britons and other nationals, safely landed in Malta after picking up the civilians south of the eastern Libyan port of Benghazi, Defense Secretary Liam Fox said. The rescue mission was bold because few planes have been able to fly through Libyan air space. It was not immediately clear if it was a British special forces mission, but the government has not ruled out using the SAS to evacuate Libyan oil fields and rescue trapped Britons.



# Focus



A coal truck drives out of downtown Welch, W.Va., Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011. Coal brought a large population to the McDowell County in the 1940's. Now the population is shrinking and the county suffers from unemployment and poverty.

## ON THE NET

Census list of U.S. counties, with births, deaths and natural increase, for 2009:

■ <http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/CO-EST2009-05.html>

■ Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov>

# Census: Near-record level of US counties dying

**WELCH, W.Va.** (AP)—In America's once-thriving coal country, 87-year-old Ed Shepard laments a prosperous era gone by, when shoppers lined the streets and government lent a helping hand. Now, here as in one-fourth of all U.S. counties, West Virginia's graying residents are slowly dying off.

Hit by an aging population and a poor economy, a near-record number of U.S. counties are experiencing more deaths than births in their communities, a phenomenon demographers call "natural decrease."

Years in the making, the problem is spreading amid a prolonged job slump and a push by Republicans in Congress to downsize government and federal spending.

"You're the anchors of our Main Streets," President Barack Obama told small business leaders in Cleveland on Tuesday. "We want your stories—your successes, your failures, what barriers you're seeing out there to expand. How can America help you succeed so that you can help America succeed?" Local businesses in Welch began to shutter after U.S. Steel departed McDowell County, which sits near Interstate 77, once referred to as the "Hillbilly Highway" because it promised a way to jobs in the South. Young adults who manage to attend college—the high-school dropout rate is 28 percent, compared with about 8 percent nationwide—can't wait to leave. For some reason, the fish in nearby Elkhorn Creek left too.

"There's no reason for you to come to Welch," says Shepard, wearing a Union 76 cap at a makeshift auto shop he still runs after six decades. "This is not-

ing but a damn ghost town in a welfare county."

In all, roughly 760 of the nation's 3,142 counties are fading away, stretching from industrial areas near Pittsburgh and Cleveland to the vineyards outside San Francisco to the rural areas of east Texas and the Great Plains. Once-booming housing areas, such as retirement communities in Florida, have not been immune.

West Virginia was the first to experience natural decrease statewide over the last decade, with Maine, Pennsylvania and Vermont close to following suit, according to the latest census figures. As a nation, the U.S. population grew by just 9.7 percent since 2000, the lowest decennial rate since the Great Depression.

"Natural decrease is an important but not widely appreciated demographic phenomenon that is reshaping our communities in both rural and urban cores of large metro areas," said Kenneth Johnson, a sociology professor and demographer at the University of New Hampshire's Carsey Institute who analyzed the census numbers.

Johnson said common threads among the dying counties are older whites who are no longer having children, and an exodus of young adults who find little promise in the region and seek jobs elsewhere. The places also have fewer Hispanic immigrants, who on average are younger and tend to have more children than other groups.

"The downturn in the U.S. economy is only exacerbating the problem," said Johnson, whose research paper is being published next month in the journal *Rural Sociology*. "In some cases, the only thing that can pull an area out is an influx of young Hispanic

immigrants or new economic development."

The predicament is starkest in places like Welch. In the 1960s, McDowell County ranked tops in the U.S. in coal production. Even as it began to stumble, President John F. Kennedy took notice and pushed federal aid to the region. McDowell residents were the first to get federal food stamps when they were rolled out in the Kennedy administration.

After U.S. Steel sold the last of its mining operations by

work and a few miles now under construction.

Shepard, who walks to work from a nearby apartment, watched the county's population plummet 80 percent after U.S. Steel's exit. Even with the recent opening of a federal prison, Shepard bemoans the area's decline, including the end of "20 years of the best fishing you ever saw."

Nowadays, he says, "you can fish but you won't catch any trout. It's like the coal mines.

Common threads among the dying counties are older whites who are no longer having children, and an exodus of young adults who find little promise in the region and seek jobs elsewhere. The places also have fewer immigrants, who on average are younger and tend to have more children than other groups.

2003, folks in southern West Virginia began counting on new highway projects to prop up the long-struggling area.

"One of the promises we're waiting to come is the highway," said Carolyn Falin, an assistant schools superintendent in McDowell County.

From the east, the Coalfields Expressway would bypass the many two-lane, truck-clogged roads zigzagging through the mountainous region. It would link a freeway to the Virginia state line 65 miles to the southwest. So far, only a few miles are open. Design work on most of it hasn't been finished.

From the west, a 95-mile King Coal Highway is also envisioned, with some bridge

It's all gone."

Recently the U.S. Senate rejected a \$900,000 appropriation for a proposed interchange of the King Coal Highway and the Coalfields Expressway near Welch.

Dying counties in the U.S. were rare until the 1960s, when the baby boom ended. By 1973, as farming communities declined, roughly 515 counties—mostly in the Great Plains—reported natural decrease. The phenomenon then began to show up in industrial regions, such as upstate New York and California. Natural decrease peaked in 2002 at a record 985, or 1 in 3 counties, before increasing births and an influx of Hispanic immigration helped

add to county populations during the housing boom.

Following the recent recession, birth rates have dropped to the lowest in a century. Preliminary census numbers for 2007-09 now show that the number of dying counties is back on the upswing. Recent additions include Pittsburgh and its surrounding counties.

James Follain, senior fellow and economist at the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government at the University of Albany, said a new kind of declining city may be emerging in the wake of the housing bust—metropolitan areas that rapidly overbuilt earlier in the decade and then suffered massive foreclosures.

He cited as examples Las Vegas, Miami, parts of Arizona, and Stockton, Modesto, Fresno and Riverside in California. Like traditional ghost towns, Follain says, portions of these areas could spiral down from persistent loss of jobs and population and lose their reason for being.

Follain also pointed to a tighter fiscal environment in Washington that will limit help to troubled areas. The Obama administration announced this month it would shrink the government's role in the mortgage system to reduce taxpayer exposure to risk. House Republicans also are pushing federal spending cuts of more than \$61 billion, even if it means reducing jobs.

"It's going to be a very slow recovery," Follain said.

Not all U.S. areas are declining. Most places with the fastest growth since 2000 were able to retain or attract college graduates and young professionals who came for jobs and later started families. Metro areas with diversified economies

such as Austin, Texas, Raleigh, N.C., and Portland, Ore., all saw gains in college graduates; other places seeing gains or reduced losses in young adults, such as Washington, D.C., Boston and San Francisco, have burgeoning biotech industries.

In West Virginia, more than 40 of its 55 counties had natural decrease over the past decade. Yet the state still gained population overall, and averted a loss of a U.S. House of Representatives seat based on the 2010 census.

It wasn't because of a last-minute turnaround. Most of West Virginia's population gains are new residents spilling over into the eastern part of the state from the blossoming Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area. The three counties on the Maryland line—Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson—each had substantial increases.

It's a different story in West Virginia's northern panhandle, along the edge of Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh.

On a recent afternoon, a group of students mingled during a cigarette break at West Virginia Northern Community College in Wheeling and chatted about their futures. "It's not that bad an area," said Demetrius Paige, 19, but there are "not a lot of jobs." He plans to leave within six years.

Kayla Murphy, 19, of Moundsville wants to stay in the state and become a nurse to help children like her brother, who has celiac disease and diabetes. She says moving out is the only real option for career-oriented people. They include her boyfriend, who left for Wisconsin to teach history.

"You have to," Murphy said. "Working at McDonald's isn't cool."



# Health & Fitness

## Speaking 2 languages may delay getting Alzheimer's

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mastering a second language can pump up your brain in ways that seem to delay getting Alzheimer's disease later on, scientists said Friday.

Never learned to habla or

## Study: PSA rise not good prostate cancer predictor

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—A rising PSA level isn't such a good predictor of prostate cancer after all and can lead to many unnecessary biopsies, says a large new study.

Most men over 50 get PSA blood tests, but they're hugely problematic. Too much PSA, or prostate-specific antigen, only sometimes signals prostate cancer is brewing—it also can mean a benign enlarged prostate or an infection. And screening often detects small tumors that will prove too slow-growing to be deadly. Yet there's no sure way to tell in advance who needs aggressive therapy.

On the other hand, some men have cancer despite a "normal" PSA count of 4 or below. So for

parlez? While the new research focuses mostly on the truly long-term bilingual, scientists say even people who tackle a new language later in life stand to gain.

The more proficient you become, the better, but "every little bit helps," said Ellen Bialystok, a psychology professor at York University in Toronto.

Much of the study of bilingualism has centered on babies, as scientists wondered why simply speaking to infants in two languages allows them to learn both in the time it takes most babies to learn one. Their brains seem to become more flexible, better able to multitask. As they grow up, their brains show bet-

ter "executive control," a system key to higher functioning—as Bialystok puts it, "the most important part of your mind."

But does that mental juggling while you're young translate into protection against cognitive decline when you're old?

Bialystok studied 450 Alzheimer's patients, all of whom showed the same degree of impairment at the time of diagnosis. Half are bilingual—they've spoken two languages regularly for most of their lives. The rest are monolingual.

The bilingual patients had Alzheimer's symptoms and were diagnosed between four and five years later than the patients who spoke only one language, she told the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Being bilingual does nothing to prevent Alzheimer's disease from striking. But once the disease does begin its silent attack,

those years of robust executive control provide a buffer so that symptoms don't become apparent as quickly, Bialystok said.

"They've been able to cope with the disease," she said.

Her work supports an earlier study from other researchers that also found a protective effect.

What is it about being bilingual that enhances that all-important executive control system?

Both languages are essentially turned on all the time, but the brain learns to inhibit the one you don't need, said psychology professor Teresa Bajo of the University of Granada in Spain. That's pretty constant activity.

That's not the only area. University of British Columbia psychologist Janet Werker studies infants exposed to two languages from birth to see why they don't confuse the two, and says bilingual babies learn very early to pay attention better.

Werker tested babies in Spain who were growing up learning both Spanish and Catalan. She showed the babies videos of women speaking languages they'd never heard—English and French—but with the sound off. By measuring the tots' attention span, Werker concluded that babies could distinguish between English and French simply by watching the speakers' facial cues. It could have been the different lip shapes.

"It looks like French people are always kissing," she joked, while the English "th" sound evokes a distinctive lip-in-teeth shape.

Whatever the cues, monolingual babies couldn't tell the difference, Werker said Friday at the meeting.

But what if you weren't lucky enough to be raised bilingual? Scientists and educators know that it becomes far harder to learn a new language after puberty.

### Personal Trainer

## Caffeine and exercise

Many people use caffeine, a mild drug that stimulates the central nervous system, as a pick-me-up; a look at its use in exercise:

### Does it help performance?

May give brief energy boost or help concentration, but only high levels can affect performance, and large doses can cause one or more of these:

- Sleeplessness
- Anxiety
- Upset stomach
- Headache
- "Wired," agitated feeling

### Side effects

People sensitive to caffeine may experience these:

- Nausea
- Muscle tremor
- Headache
- Excessive urination, leading to dehydration if water is not replaced

### A caffeine myth

Researchers used to believe caffeine makes the body burn fat for energy more efficiently

Later research overturned that theory; caffeine affects your brain, not your metabolism

Drink a couple of large espressos within 2 or 3 hours, and you may fail the International Olympic Committee's drug test for caffeine use

© 2011 MCT  
Source: McKesson Clinical Reference Systems  
Graphic: Paul Trap

*In Celebration of  
Her New Life*

†**Francisca Santos  
Deleon Guerrero**

Lovingly known as "Frances"

Born: August 13, 1956 • Died: February 22, 2011

**Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:**

**Husband:** Lorenzo Aguero Deleon Guerrero  
**Children and Families:** William Anthony S. and Sabina J. Deleon Guerrero (Trenton, Landon, Kane Joseph, Jeremiah Peter and William Anthony Jr.)  
Patrick John S. and Loria Faye A. Deleon Guerrero (Ai'sha Jonaye, Lorenzo John "LJ")  
Lawrence Lee S. and Paulette T. Deleon Guerrero (Dillon, Nicky)  
Roselle S. Deleon Guerrero  
**Parents:** Antonio Naputi Santos  
Rosario Sablan Santos  
**Parents In Law:** Guillermo Cabrera Deleon Guerrero  
Juana Aguero Deleon Guerrero

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each evening at 6:00pm. At St. Jude Church followed by Holy Rosary.

Saturday, February 26, 2011- 7:00am.  
Sunday, February 27, 2011 - 8:00am.

Her remains will be arriving from Honolulu, HI early Saturday morning March 05, 2011 and will lie in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, March 07, 2011. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30am.

Interment Services will at Santuario Pax Memorial Gardens in Kagman, Saipan where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please Join Us In Prayers,  
**Lorenzo "Larry" A. Deleon Guerrero**  
Children and Families



# DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

## ALFRED FLORES FLEMING

*Passed away on Wednesday morning of February 21, 2011 at the age of 89.*

A humble man guided by his deep faith and commitment to family and community; battled many years of illness for his one true love, friend, companion and confidant; his wife; "Liang". He lived a simple life.

***His memories will forever live in the hearts of his faithful and loving wife, Rosalia "Liang" Aldan Fleming***

**Children:** **Anuncia** A. Reyes, **James** A. and Constanza Mendiola Fleming, **Ellen** F. Ikehara, **Michael** A. and Esther Sablan Fleming, **Donald** James Power, **Thomas** A. Fleming, **Deborah** Fleming and Kerat Mony, **Felipe** A. and Nora Manglona Aquino, **Manuela** A. and Rodel Manlulu

**25 grandchildren, 49 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.**

**He will also be missed by caring family members:** Daisy F. Manglona, Lydia F. Black, Leonora F. Bordallo, Rudy F. Fleming, Julita A. and Francisco C. Castro, Helena A. Diaz, Maria "Manting" A. and Antonio R. Sablan, Pauline A. Corliss, Bernadita DLR. Aldan, Margarita A. Aldan and Amparo and Jose Tenorio

***He is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces and nephews***

***In his life, he now joins his:***

**Parents:** †Henry Gordon and †Consolacion Flores Fleming

**Parents-In-Laws:** †Joaquin Crisostimo and Manuela Concepcion Aldan

**Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:** †Albert F. and †Consolacion Ayuyu Fleming, †George F. and †Juanita M Fleming, †Thomas F. and †Ursula Untalan Fleming, †David "Kondo" Sandbergen, †Jose Manglona, †Rodney Bordallo, †Gene Black, †Alfonso Diaz, †Francisco C. Aldan, †Ignacio C. and †Merced DLG. Aldan, †Teresita A. and †Justo L. Sanchez, †Tomas C. and †Mariana S. Aldan, †Engracia "Aya" A. and †Dewayne Johnson Sr.

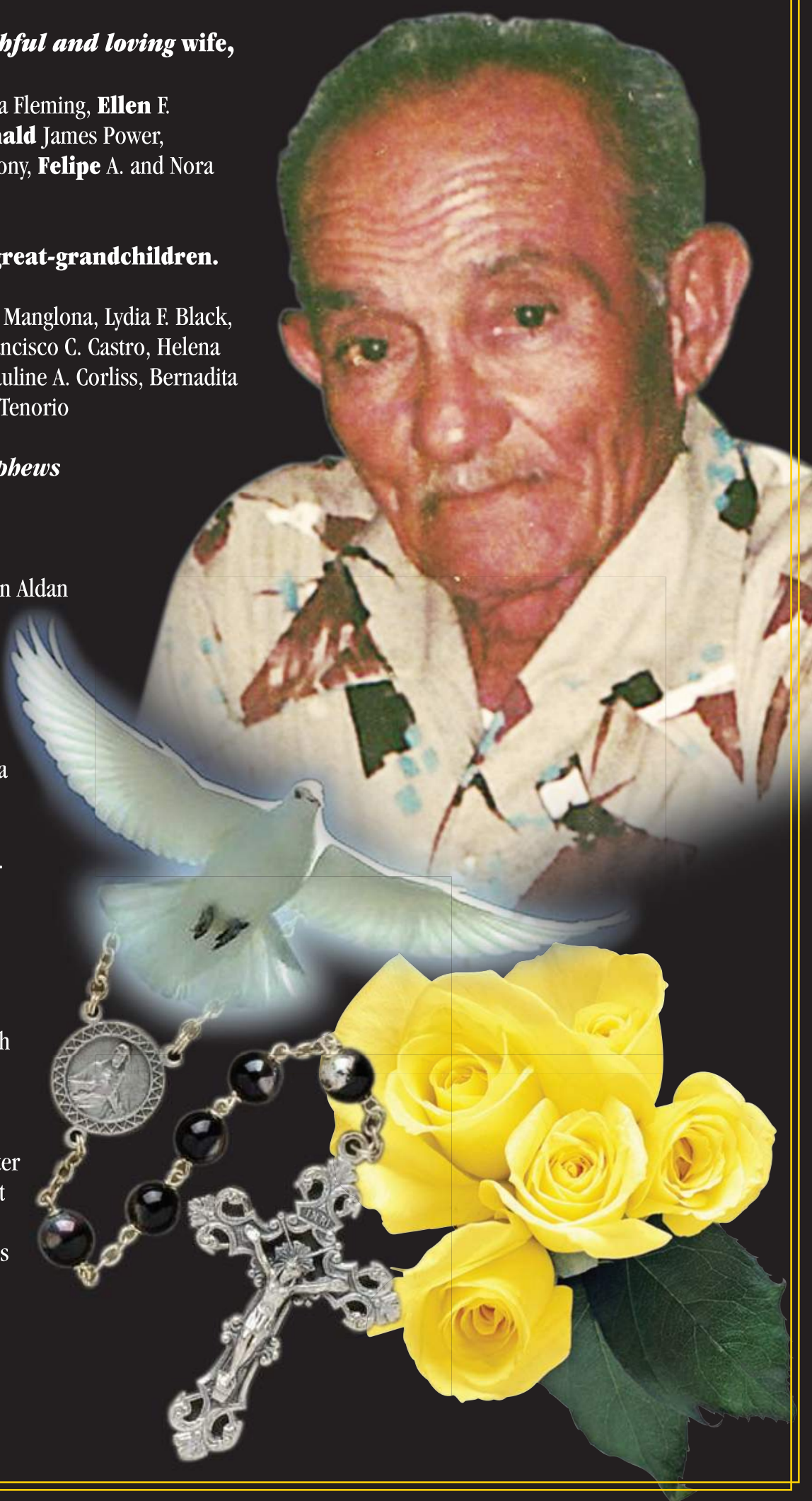
**Son, Daughter and In-Laws:** †Joaquin A. Fleming, †Carmen A. Aquino, †Consolacion "Connie" F. Power, †Dwight Ikehara, †Alfonso S. Reyes

Holy Rosary is being said nightly in Tinian at the San Jose Church after each evening Mass. Mass of Intentions is being offered in the morning at Kristo Rai Church and each evening at Saint Jude Church on Saipan.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, March 02, 2011 at Tinian, CNMI. His remains will be escorted from Tinian Health Center to San Jose Church in Tinian at 8:00AM. Responso Service will be at 9:00AM followed by the Holy Rosary at 9:30AM. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00AM followed by Interment Services at Tinian Public Cemetery.

Please Join Us In Prayers

**Rosalia Aldan Fleming  
Children and Families**





# Life & Style

## ‘Last Airbender’ rules Razzies as worst picture

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The action fantasy “The Last Airbender”—about people who

can command fire, air, water and earth—now controls something else: the Razzie awards

for Hollywood’s worst film achievements of 2010.

“The Last Airbender” led

Saturday’s Razzies with five awards, among them worst picture, worst director and worst screenplay for M. Night Shyamalan.

The movie also received Razzies for worst supporting actor (Jackson Rathbone, who was cited for both “The Last Airbender” and “The Twilight Saga: Eclipse”) and for a special award, worst eye-gouging misuse of 3-D.

A spoof of the Academy Awards, the Razzies were announced the night before the Oscars, Hollywood’s biggest party.

“Sex and the City 2” took three Razzies, including worst actress, a prize shared by co-stars Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon, worst screen couple or ensemble for its entire cast, and worst prequel, remake, rip-off or sequel.

Ashton Kutcher was picked as worst actor for “Killers” and “Valentine’s Day,” while Jessica Alba took the Razzie as worst supporting actress for four 2010 releases, “The Killer Inside Me,” “Little Fockers,” “Ma-

chete” and “Valentine’s Day.”

Shyamalan has been on a downward spiral since 1999 Oscar best-picture contender “The Sixth Sense,” which earned him directing and writing nominations at Hollywood’s highest honors. He won Razzies as worst director and worst supporting actor for his 2006 fantasy flop “Lady in the Water.”

Despite terrible reviews, “The Last Airbender” managed to find a decent audience, pulling in \$300 million worldwide at the box office. Shyamalan adapted the movie from the animated TV series “Avatar: The Last Airbender.”

“He managed to take a cartoon property and make it even less lifelike by making it with real actors,” said Razzies founder John Wilson. “Most people who like the show, and this would include my 14-year-old son, hated the movie. It made no sense whatsoever.”

“The Last Airbender” was among movies that critics knocked for smudgy, blurry 3-D images. The movie was shot in 2-D and converted to digital 3-D to cash in on

the extra few dollars theaters charge for 3-D screenings.

“They call it converted. We call it perverted,” Wilson said. “The more times you trick the public and charge them that fee and don’t really deliver, eventually it’s going to be like Lucy and Charlie Brown with the football. Fool me ten times, I’m done.”

Wilson said the characters of “Sex and the City 2” were getting too old to cavort the way they do, calling the movie “The Expendables,” but with estrogen,” referring to Sylvester Stallone’s tale about aging action heroes.

“Sex and the City 2” also was offensive, Wilson said, showing Parker and her gal pal co-stars disrespecting Arab culture on a trip to Abu Dhabi and flaunting their privileged ways.

“It was released in the middle of a period of American history when everyone’s scrounging not to lose their homes, and these women are riding around in Rolls-Royces, buying expensive shoes and just throwing money around like they’re drunk,” Wilson said.

## Stars rock the Kodak at Oscar’s music rehearsals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Kodak Theatre was rocking as Gwyneth Paltrow, Mandy Moore, Celine Dion and other musicians ran through the numbers they’ll perform on Sunday’s Academy Awards.

Moore dueted with Zachary Levi on “I See the Light,” the nominated song from Disney’s “Tangled,” as composer and eight-time Oscar winner Alan Menken backed them on piano. Paltrow continued to show her musical side, singing “Coming Home” from her recent film “Country Strong.” Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman and indie rocker Florence Welch of Florence + The Machine performed a haunting rendition of “If I Rise” from “127 Hours.” Dion sang “Smile” as the In Memoriam packaged played on a big screen above her.

But an energetic group of 10-year-olds stole the show from all those stars.

The 64 fifth graders who make up the chorus at New York’s Public School 22 in Staten Island arrived at the Kodak Theatre Friday to rehearse their performance of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” They’d flown in earlier that morning, many of them on their first-ever airplane trip. Wearing green or blue T-shirts that declared them to be an alto or soprano, they filled the theater with elementary-school enthusiasm.

“Justin Timberlake, oh my God!” one girl said when she saw the star’s seat-saving placard. “When I’m up there, my



In this publicity image released by Warner Bros., from left, Cynthia Nixon, Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall and Kristin Davis are shown in a scene from, “Sex and the City.”

eyes will be right here.”

Then they tromped onto the Oscar stage and sang with such conviction and heart that they choked up an audience of Hollywood veterans.

Guided by stage managers and their teacher, Gregg Breinberg, the students practiced getting on and off stage and memorized their spots for the night. They marveled at the names they recognized in the audience. Sandra Bullock! Nicole Kidman! They looked around the big theater and had to be reminded to pay attention. But when they sang, it was clear they knew exactly what they were doing. They swayed and moved to the beat. They closed their eyes and gestured with their hands. They felt it.

“You’re in this song. You’re inside of it,” Breinberg told

them. “You’re going to blow everybody away.”

Moments later, the kids were the ones blown away when show hosts Anne Hathaway and James Franco surprised them on stage. The actors hugged and high-fived them, then posed for a photo.

“Way to go,” Hathaway told the group. “I love your dance moves.”

Next up for PS 22? They’re going to Disneyland Saturday, where they’re set to perform in front of the famous Magic Castle.

“We didn’t think we could beat the Oscars, but Disneyland is coming damn close,” Oscar producer Bruce Cohen said.

Then on Sunday, the fifth-grade singers will walk the red carpet before making their Academy Awards debut.



Fifth graders from New York’s PS22 rehearse at the Kodak Theatre in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles, Friday, Feb. 25, 2011. The 83rd Academy Awards airs Sunday.

## ‘Black Swan’ wins top honor at indie Spirit Awards

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—The ballet thriller “Black Swan” won four prizes Saturday at the Spirit Awards honoring independent film, including best picture, best actress for Natalie Portman and director for Darren Aronofsky.

James Franco was picked as best actor for the survival story “127 hours,” while the Ozarks crime story “Winter’s Bone” earned both supporting-acting prizes, for John Hawkes and Dale Dickey.

All three films are up for best picture at Sunday’s Academy Awards, where Portman is considered the favorite to win the best-actress Oscar and Franco is a co-host alongside actress Anne Hathaway.

With plenty of overlap among nominees at the Oscars, the Spirit Awards are a warm-up for Hollywood’s biggest party.

The British monarchy saga “The King’s Speech,” the best-picture front-runner at the Oscars, won the prize for best foreign film.

“Black Swan” also took the cinematography award for Matthew Libatique.

Portman and Aronofsky joked about the difficulty in getting “Black Swan” off the ground, with cash tight and few people believing the film could ever make its money back.

“My ballet teachers were, like, every day, ‘So when do we get paid?’” said Portman, who won for her role as a ballerina losing her grip on reality.

Aronofsky thanked his financial backers for believing in the film. “Now, they’re (expletive) rich,” Aronofsky said of the money men behind “Black Swan,” a \$100 million hit.

Aronofsky said he has been blessed with fearless actors in all of his films and had gushing praise for Portman.

“To have this incredible performer give you everything she’s got and then train for a year. I’ll always be in debt to Miss Natalie Portman,” Aronofsky said.

Franco, in film school at New York University when the “127 hours” script came his way, said he was inclined to pass except for the insistence of his manager, agent and publicist, who told him it was a film he had to do.

“I just finished my thesis film, so independent film is something that’s a very, very big part of my life and very important to me, so this means a lot,” said Franco, who stars as real-life adventurer Aron Ralston, who cut off his arm after he became trapped by a boulder in a canyon.

“The King’s Speech” director, Tom Hooper, said he has not been following Oscar predictions but confided backstage

that he was jittery about the awards show coming a day later.

“I think anyone would be not in their right mind at the prospect of making a speech in front of half a billion people,” Hooper said.

“Winter’s Bone” co-star Hawkes thanked the film’s crew, advising the crowd to “look them up and hire them for your films.” He also thanked director Debra Granik, whom he called the “best of the best,” and the break-out star of “Winter’s Bone,” Jennifer Lawrence, who lost best actress to Portman but also is nominated at the Oscars.

“I can’t wait to see what the future holds for you, Jen,” said Hawkes, who plays Lawrence’s menacing but ferociously protective uncle.

In “Winter’s Bone,” Dickey co-stars as a member of a close-knit crime clan in the Ozarks. She thanked the people of Missouri, where the film was shot, for opening “their hearts and land,” and said she hoped the role might land her fresh work.

“I’m getting some more auditions than I had before,” said Dickey, best-known for her comic role as the daytime hooker on TV’s “My Name Is Earl.” “The residual trickle-down is hopefully, I’ll get more work. If I get more work, I’m a happy chick.”



# Oscar producers promise Shrek, sun, short speeches

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A giant green ogre will be part of Sunday's Academy Awards.

Oscar producers Bruce Cohen and Don Mischer said Friday that awards for animated feature and animated short will be presented at the kingdom of Far Far Away from "Shrek," which won the inaugural animated-feature Oscar 10 years ago.

The telecast will use technology to take viewers to various destinations during the show that help create context for the awards being presented, producers said.

They also revealed that the first two awards of the night, and the first two to be presented in one of these settings, will be art direction and cinematography.

Cohen said he personally called each of the nominees in

those two categories to warn them their awards were up first, and to encourage them to craft meaningful acceptance speeches free of long lists of names.

"The idea was to encourage them to give short, moving, funny, beautiful speeches, since they would be the first speeches the whole world hears," he said.

Academy president Tom Sherak said producers have taken steps to ensure no winner will read a list on stage.

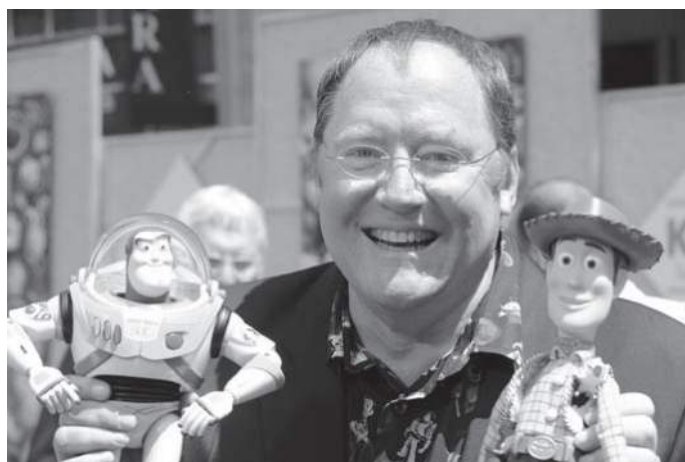
"They have done away with the metal detectors, and they are going to have paper detectors," he joked. "So before (winners) come up, they're going to walk through a scan that will make sure they have no paper in their pockets."

The president also promised that it wouldn't rain on Oscar

Sunday. He said he made a special arrangement after producers invited him to appear on the show.

"That night, I went to sleep,

and I looked up at the ceiling, and I said to my mother and father, 'Get everybody ready, I'm speaking on the show,'" he said. "They wouldn't dare let it rain."



In this June 13, 2010 file photo, John Lasseter arrives at the world premiere of "Toy Story 3," at The El Capitan Theater in Los Angeles.

## John Lasseter wins Shorts lifetime achievement award

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—John Lasseter's pair of Oscars have a new friend: a lifetime achievement trophy. The Pixar and Disney animation chief received the award Friday night for his dedication to the 40-minutes-or-less medium from Shorts International, an entertainment organization which promotes, distributes, broadcasts and produces short films.

"It feels fantastic because I love short films," said Lasseter. "I love the art form and what it did for me as a filmmaker. I learned so much from making short films. They're these little gems, these fantastic little ideas that are not meant to be a feature film. They're perfect unto themselves. A great short film leaves you smiling and thinking about it."

Lasseter won the animated short film Oscar in 1988 for "Tin Toy," as well as a special achievement award in 1995 for "Toy Story," the first feature-length computer-generated film. The lifetime achievement award from Shorts International may not be his only prize this weekend. He's nominated with the other "Toy Story 3" filmmakers for best adapted screenplay.

## Report: Rocker Vince Neil released from Vegas jail

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Motley Crue singer Vince Neil has been released from jail after serving 10 days of a 15-day sentence for a drunken driving conviction.

The Las Vegas Sun reports the 50-year-old rocker got out of the Clark County Detention Center Friday.

Neil pleaded guilty in January to driving drunk last summer near the Las Vegas Strip. He was sentenced to 15 days

"Toy Story 3" is also competing in the sound editing, original song, animated feature and best picture categories. Lasseter is hopeful about its chances for the top prize, even though the motion picture academy has never bestowed an animated film with the best picture honor. "Toy Story 3" is only the third animated film to be nominated in that category.

"I do believe we will one day see an animated film win the best picture Oscar, and I hope it's on Sunday," said Lasseter. "I think that over time, more and more of Hollywood and the Academy has gotten to know animation. It's exactly the same as live action filmmaking. We tell great stories. We use great actors. We just use a different camera."

Other honorees Friday included director Kenneth Branagh and actresses June Foray and Melissa Leo, who commended short films for keeping her "going many a time when things were quite blue." This year's crop of live action, documentary and animated short film nominees were also recognized during the swanky affair at Soho House overlooking the Sunset Strip.

## Woman won't give approval to friend's destructive affairs

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

DEAR ABBY: My best friend "Diane" and I have known each other since we were children. She has always had difficulty in her relationships with men. In the last three years, she has begun dating married men. She was sure the latest one was the man of her dreams, but it was short-lived and destroyed his marriage. Diane rationalizes what she's doing by saying the men will cheat anyway, so why not with her?

Diane is now in love with someone new. If he leaves his wife and children for her, this will be another home Diane has helped break up. She wants my blessings and for me to get along with her boyfriend. Being a married woman and a mother, I sympathize with the wives of these men.

Why has my best friend become a home wrecker? What can I do to avoid being pulled into this affair without losing her friendship?

MORALLY COMPROMISED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR MORALLY COMPROMISED: There is no one-size-fits-all answer about why a woman dates married men. Some women do it because they fall in love; others because they don't care whom they hurt to get what they want; while still others see it as a competition they "have" to win—again and again.

You do not have to allow yourself to be drawn into this. Avoid it by making clear to Diane that as much as you care about her, you don't approve, and want no contact with the new man in her life.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Our son has not spoken to us in 2 1/2 years. This isn't the first time it has happened. When we are asked how he and his family are doing and where they are living, we don't know how to respond. What do we say when meeting someone new and they ask whether we have children?

If we answer that we have one son, a number of questions are sure to follow for which we don't have answers. Can you offer some appropriate responses to these questions that don't require having to say, "We don't know"?

NEEDS AN ANSWER IN VIRGINIA

DEAR NEEDS AN ANSWER: When someone asks how your son and his family are doing and where they are living, say, "We are estranged." And if you are asked by a stranger if you have any children, look the person in the eye and reply, "I'd rather not discuss it."

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have a neighbor with a lovely family. While I enjoy talking to them, I don't know how to politely tell her to stay home when I have company. She will send her children to my door selling school items when my adult children are here for dinner. She comes into my yard with her kids when I'm entertaining friends from out of town.

I was brought up that if a neighbor has company, you should stay home unless you were invited. I just want some privacy when I have guests.

NAMELESS IN THE EAST

DEAR NAMELESS: You do have a problem, because it appears your neighbor is someone who never learned boundaries. Unless you tell the woman that when you're entertaining guests, you want her to respect your privacy, she'll continue inviting herself over. And if you prefer that your guests not be subjected to a sales pitch from her children, when they knock, tell them you have company, can't talk to them right now and close your door.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds)

## ABC's '20/20' to air interview with Charlie Sheen

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC says it will broadcast an interview with Charlie Sheen that was recorded after the incendiary rant that led CBS and Warner Bros. Television to halt production of "Two and a Half Men" for the season.

The interview with Sheen will be broadcast during a special one-hour edition of "20/20" at 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

Excerpts from the interview will also be aired on "Good Morning America" on Monday and Tuesday.



Sheen

Production on Sheen's hit sitcom was halted after the actor called the show's executive producer a "contaminated little maggot" on a radio program Thursday and in a letter posted on the TMZ website.

The show's producers have not said whether they will cancel the program.

## Actor Kelsey Grammer gets hitched on Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Kelsey Grammer has tied the knot for the fourth time in a familiar place. The "Cheers" and "Frasier" star married 29-year-old flight attendant Kayte Walsh on Friday at Broadway's Longacre Theatre—the same place where the actor had been headlining "La Cage aux Folles" with Douglas Hodge until earlier this month.

Stan Rosenfield, a Grammer representative, called the event "a private ceremony for family and friends." A reception followed at the Plaza Hotel.

Grammer, 56, received a Tony Award nomination for his role in the show playing Georges, the suave owner of a glitzy drag club on the French Riviera.

The ceremony was held before the evening performance of "La Cage," which revealed bad news the same day when it announced that Jeffrey Tambor had permanently pulled out of the production.

Tambor, best known for

his roles on TV in "The Larry Sanders Show" and "Arrested Development," had replaced Grammer on Feb. 15 but "was experiencing complications from recent hip surgery and the pain and the challenge of performing in a musical eight times a week proved to be too physically demanding," according to a statement from producers. His last show was Thursday.

Chris Hoch, who regularly plays the role of Francis and understudies the role of Georges, will play the role on Friday night. Casting for the role of Georges will be announced soon. Harvey Fierstein, who replaced Tony Award-winner Douglas Hodge, remains in the show.

Grammer's divorce from his third wife, "Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" star Camille Grammer, became final earlier this month. They had been married for 13 years and have two young children.

It's Walsh's first marriage.



Grammer







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JOE HILL, Esq.  
HILL LAW OFFICE  
P.O. Box 500917  
Saipan, CM 96950  
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743  
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION AND CHANGE OF NAME OF

**FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0081**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Judge: Hon. Perry B. Inos

**CLAIRE REBUSORA OTA, LORETO REBUSORA OTA and LOUIGIE REBUSORA OTA,**  
Minor Children, Adoptee;

By: **MAHITO OTA,**  
Petitioner.

Please take notice that at **1:30 p.m., March 21, 2011**, or as soon thereafter as can be heard, this Court will hold a hearing at the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan for the specific purpose of:

1. Determining whether a decree of adoption of the minor children, Claire R. Ota Loreto R. Ota, and Louigie R. Ota should be granted to Petitioner herein.

2. Affording any party adversely affected an opportunity to be heard.

Dated this 23rd day of February, 2011.

/s/ **Deputy Clerk of Court**  
Superior Court

JOE HILL, Esq.  
HILL LAW OFFICES  
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743  
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**MARIA KARFELGAD-WEI,**  
Petitioner,

versus

**SHI YING WEI,**  
Respondent.

**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0057**

**SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED REPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court  
Superior Court

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# Celtics hold off Clippers for latest road win



**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Paul Pierce scored 24 points, Ray Allen added 22, and the Boston Celtics rallied in the second half for their fourth victory in five games, 99-92 over the Los Angeles Clippers on Saturday night.

Kevin Garnett had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the defending Eastern Conference champions, who began the process of integrating newcomers Jeff Green and Nenad Krstic into their lineup after acquiring them from Oklahoma City in a trade for Kendrick Perkins.

Krstic had nine points and six rebounds while starting at center for the Celtics, who made a 24-7 run spanning halftime. After sleepwalking through portions of a loss in Denver on Thursday night immediately after the trade, the Celtics regained their usual late-game execution at Staples Center.

Randy Foye scored 32 points and Blake Griffin added 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Clippers in their first home game since Feb. 2 following an 11-game road trip. The Clippers had won nine straight home games before losing to Chicago right before their epic trip.

The Clippers committed 21 turnovers in their 10th loss in 12 games, but at least they're home after what's thought to be the second-longest road trip in NBA history, stretching nearly four weeks while the Grammys and the NBA All-Star weekend occupied Staples Center. The game also was Los Angeles' fourth in five nights out of the All-Star break, including last night's loss to the Lakers.

Green struggled early off the bench in his first game with the Celtics, finishing with seven points and one rebound in 17 minutes. Coach Doc Rivers intends to use Green early as Pierce's backup, but he gave a debut start to Krstic, who also committed five fouls while getting to know his teammates.

## Bulls 83, Bucks 75

In Milwaukee, Luol Deng scored 19 points, Derrick Rose had 17 and the surging Chicago Bulls beat the Milwaukee Bucks 83-75 on Saturday night.

Chicago has won six of seven to improve to 15-4 since Jan. 14, putting pressure on Boston and Miami at the top of the Eastern Conference. Joakim Noah had eight points and 17 rebounds for the Bulls, who beat the Heat 93-89 on Thursday night.

Luc Richard Mbah a Moute scored a second-high 16 points and John Salmons added 14 points for the Bucks.

Earl Boykins entered the game for the first time in the fourth quarter and scored Milwaukee's first 10 points of the period. Salmons hit a 3-pointer to trim the Bulls' lead to 78-72 with 3:56 remaining.

Rose then drove the lane and hit a wide-open Kyle Korver, who drained a 3-pointer. After Andrew Bogut hit one free throw for the Bucks, Korver made another jumper with 2:21 remaining to put the game away.

## Mavericks 105, Wizards 99

In Washington, Jason Terry scored 25 points, Tyson Chandler had a season-high 23 and 13 rebounds and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Washington Wizards 105-99 on Saturday night for their fifth consecutive victory.

Dirk Nowitzki added 21 points for the Mavericks, who have won 15 of 16 overall. Dallas improved to 8-1 in its last nine road games in the opener of a



Boston Celtics forward Paul Pierce, center, shoots over Los Angeles Clippers forward Al-Farouq Aminu, left, with center Chris Kaman, right, defending during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011, in Los Angeles. Celtics won the game, 99-92.

## Knicks' Anthony says he'll play against Heat

**MIAMI (AP)**—Carmelo Anthony took some easy shots about 12 feet from the basket Saturday afternoon, swishing just about every attempt.

All were left-handed - a clear sign that the New York Knicks' newly acquired star was having plenty of distress in his right elbow again.

Regardless, Anthony said he would "without a doubt" be in the lineup Sunday night when the Knicks visit LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and the Miami Heat in a game that has all the makings of being far from another ordinary part of the NBA's marathon regular season.

Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said Anthony told him the elbow pain, which flared up in New York's loss at Cleveland on Friday night, stemmed from a lingering bursa sac problem. Anthony went through New York's practice in Miami, which started about

13 hours after the loss to the Cavaliers.

"He should be fine," D'Antoni said. "He didn't take a whole lot of shots, let's put it that way, but he ran through everything. Most of the things we did was try to get our defense on the same page."

Anthony had his right elbow in a protective sleeve, like the one he's been wearing on his left arm. He said he doesn't plan on being 100 percent for a couple of weeks, but noted that since the Knicks have 26 games remaining before the postseason, there's little time for him to wait around.

They need to start clicking as soon as possible, he said - and finding a way to handle the likes of Wade and James in Miami would be a good start.

"For us, it should be a statement game to come out here and want to beat this team ... just make a statement right now going down the stretch," Anthony said. "I'm pretty sure it's go-

ing to be an exciting game."

Knicks-Heat games always seem that way.

It was a major rivalry a decade or so ago, after Miami played New York four straight times in the playoffs from 1997 to 2000. Each of those series went to a deciding game, and the Knicks won three of them - all on the Heat home floor.

Sunday night may easily rekindle some of that Heat-Knicks bad blood.

"We know the Heat-Knicks rivalry goes way beyond our years," James said. "It basically started with the departure of the man upstairs, coming down here and leaving New York."

The man upstairs, as James put it, is Heat president Pat Riley—who left the Knicks for Miami a decade-and-a-half ago and instantly became someone New York loved to hate.

He'll be low profile on Sunday, but the atmosphere should still be electric.

# Baseball union head optimistic about new CBA deal



**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)**—Baseball union leader Michael Weiner says he's optimistic that a new collective bargaining agreement can be reached with Major League Baseball.

Weiner and other union officials met with New York Yankees' players on Saturday before a spring training game. The discussions centered on upcoming negotiations to replace the current deal that expires in December.

"Are we optimistic in a sense? Yes," Weiner said. "Do we take anything for

granted? No. I've been working for the union since 1988, and I've seen things take twists and turns."

Weiner expects a few negotiating sessions before the end of spring training. He added that talks will start in earnest after the start of the regular season.

"The lines of communication are open," Weiner said. "There seems to be a real recognition and has been for many years by management in baseball, that the union is here to stay, and the union and the players have an important role to play."

Weiner has no concerns regarding

the New York Mets, who acknowledged Friday that they received a loan from Major League Baseball in November to help cover expenses.

"The commissioner's office, for many years, have supported different franchises in different situations," Weiner said. "I rely upon assurances we've received from the commissioner's office, as well as the documents that we are entitled to under the basic agreement. I'm very confident that the obligations to players under the basic agreement and their contracts will be met."

three-game trip.

John Wall had 24 points for lowly Washington, which has lost five in a row and 15 of 16. Nick Young scored 14 and Rashard Lewis finished with 13.

The Mavericks led 97-89 with 3:19 to play, but Wall nearly led the Wizards to a surprising victory. He had three straight layups, and on successive plays, he scored and was fouled by Jason Kidd, but both times missed free throws on opportunities for three-point plays.

## Grizzlies 120, Kings 92

In Memphis, Zach Randolph had 23 points and 12 rebounds, Marc Gasol added 21 points, and the Memphis Grizzlies pulled away in the second half to beat the Sacramento Kings 120-92 on Saturday night.

Both Randolph and Gasol were 10 of 15 from the field as Memphis shot 55 percent while winning for the sixth time in seven games. Darrell Arthur had 17 points, O.J. Mayo scored 13 and Hamed Haddadi added 10 points and a career-high 10 rebounds.

Beno Udrih led the Kings with 24 points, connecting on 10 of 13 shots. But for much of the game, he was the only one providing substantial scoring for Sacramento. Marcus Thornton finished with 15, and DeMarcus Cousins added 14 points and seven rebounds before fouling out.

## Pistons 120, Jazz 116

In Auburn Hills, Rodney Stuckey scored 28 points and made a big steal in the final minute, helping the Detroit Pistons bounce back from an embarrassing start to the weekend with a 120-116 win over the Utah Jazz on Saturday night.

One night earlier, Detroit used only six players in a lopsided loss at Philadelphia after several Pistons missed at least part of a team shootaround. Stuckey and Austin Daye, who arrived late to the shoot-around and didn't play Friday, were back on the court against the Jazz. Daye scored 18 points, 11 in the fourth quarter.

Paul Millsap led Utah with 23 points and 11 rebounds.

## Rockets 123, Nets 108

In Houston, mimicking the post-game routine of the man he replaced in the starting lineup, Chase Budinger put on a buttoned-down shirt, sat at his locker and plunged his bare feet into tubs of ice water after Saturday's win over New Jersey.

Budinger scored 27 points and Houston beat Deron Williams and the Nets 123-108 in the Rockets' first game since trading away Shane Battier and Aaron Brooks.

Budinger moved into Battier's starting role and went 8 for 11 from the field, including three 3-pointers.

Weiner also addressed with the players the labor situation in other sports. The NFL and its union are currently working on a new agreement.

"We'll do everything we can to try to support the NFL players," Weiner said. "We expect them to stand strong as we've tried to do."

Baseball's joint drug program and an international draft are among topics that will be part of the negotiations.

"I'm not trying to predict the future, but it doesn't appear that anybody is looking to really reinvent the wheel," Weiner said.



# Martin Kaymer takes over No. 1 in the world



**MARANA, Ariz.**

(AP)—Stoic as ever, Martin Kaymer rolled in an 8-foot par putt on the 18th hole Saturday and treated it like another day at the office, removing his cap to shake hands with his latest victim.

Kaymer is not ready to celebrate becoming the new No. 1 player in golf.

Right now, he just wants to be No. 1 at the Match Play Championship.

The 26-year-old German outlasted Bubba Watson to end a long day at Dove Mountain and reach the championship match, assuring that he will be No. 1 in the next world ranking.

Kaymer becomes the 14th player to top the ranking and the second-youngest player to be No. 1. Tiger Woods was 21 when he first reached No. 1 in the world in June 1997.

But the celebration will have to wait. Next up for Kaymer is Luke Donald, who set an Accenture Match Play Championship record by needing only 73 holes in five matches to reach the final.

“When I hear those things, that I’m No. 1 in the world on Monday ... I’m in the middle of a tournament,” Kaymer said. “It would be fantastic tomorrow if I could win. Then it really feels like I deserve to be No. 1. I’m not saying that I don’t deserve it, but it would make me feel better if I would win instead of finishing second tomorrow.”

“So yes,” he said with a smile, “it’s a little strange.”

There should be no debate whether the “Germanator” deserves to be No. 1. He ends the 17-week reign of Lee Westwood, who only had three wins on his world ranking ledger when he became No. 1.

Kaymer has won seven times in the last two years, including his first major at the PGA Championship in August, when he holed a clutch putt on the final hole and beat Watson in a three-hole playoff at Whistling Straits.

Asked who he thought was No. 1, Kaymer replied, “Still Lee Westwood—until Monday.”

“When the rankings say that I’m the No. 1, then I’m the best player in the world,” he said. “And if they say so, then that’s the truth. Maybe on Tuesday or Wednesday, when I see my name up there, I’ll definitely take a picture of that moment.”

Kaymer is the second German to reach the top of the ranking. Bernhard Langer was the inaugural No. 1 when the world ranking was created at the 1986 Masters, although Langer lasted only three weeks.

“It’s a very proud moment,” Kaymer said. “Not only for me, for my family, for the people who helped me and for Germany.”

More hard work awaits.

No one has been more dominant at Dove Mountain than Donald, who has yet to trail in any of his five matches. Donald only had to play 27 holes in his quarterfinal win over Ryan Moore and his demolition of Matt Kuchar in the semifinals.

It marks the second straight year for an all-European final in this World Golf Championship. A year ago, Ian Poulter defeated Paul Casey in the championship match.

Watson, who came into Saturday having played only 43 holes in three



Martin Kaymer of Germany lines up a putt on 12 while playing Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain during a quarterfinal round of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011, in Marana, Ariz. Kaymer won, 1 up.

matches, faced 37 holes in a long and wild day. Watson was 5 down with eight to play against J.B. Holmes when

he staged an amazing comeback. Holmes hit into the desert at the wrong time and lost in 19 holes.

Kaymer and Watson were all square going to 15 when it turned in favor of the “Germanator.”

## NFL labor committee updates owners on negotiations



**INDIANAPOLIS**

(AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and the league’s top labor negotiator used this week’s annual scouting combine to update owners on the collective bargaining negotiations.

In an e-mail to The Associated Press, league spokesman Greg Aiello confirmed Saturday that Goodell and Jeff Pash met Friday with the owner’s labor committee at the Colts’ team complex. Colts owner Jim Irsay, Aiello said, did not participate because he was out of town.

“There was a meeting yesterday at the Colts’ offices of the ownership’s labor committee for another update from the negotiating team,” Aiello wrote.

The NFL Players Association and league owners are trying to work out a new collective bargaining agreement before the old expires at the end of Thursday.

The two sides spent seven straight days negotiating in front of federal mediator George Cohen in Washington before talks ended Thursday. They are scheduled to resume Tuesday.

Both sides have abided by Cohen’s request to stay quiet about the negotiations, but it’s becoming increasingly clear that everyone involved is bracing for the NFL’s first work stoppage since 1987.

“Everyone is building their team the same way. You’ll have the draft, you’ll have free agency, none of those things are going away,” Kansas City Chiefs general manager

Scott Pioli said Saturday. “It all is going to be there at some point, and you’re going to build your team the way you build your team.”

Agents also expect a salary cap to be part of the eventual deal.

The latest meeting in Indy was another odd twist on one of the NFL’s biggest and busiest offseason events. Suddenly, all that talk about big-time picks like Cam Newton and Nick Fairley has been overshadowed by the continual meetings about the looming lockout.

On Thursday night, league officials met with head coaches and general managers. Jacksonville Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio described the meeting as “informational.”

On Friday, NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith took his turn. He spent two hours updating agents on the negotiations, then the union put four prominent agents—Tom Condon, Ben Dogra, Drew Rosenhaus and Joel Segal—side-by-side in a show of unity for Smith and the players.

Three blocks away, at Lucas Oil Stadium, the site of next year’s Super Bowl, prospective rookies were working out at the same time agents began tweeting that potential rookies would not be allowed to talk with team officials if the CBA expires. Union and league spokesmen quickly said that was untrue.

On Saturday, word leaked about Goodell’s meeting on the city’s west side. Aiello did not provide details of the most recent discussions which included the labor committee co-

chairman—Pat Bowlen of the Denver Broncos and Jerry Richardson of the Carolina Panthers—Dallas’ Jerry Jones and New England’s Robert Kraft.

The most recent CBA was signed in 2006, but owners exercised a clause in 2008 that let them opt out.

League owners want a greater percentage of the roughly \$9 billion in annual revenue that is shared with the players. Among the other significant topics in negotiations are a rookie wage scale; the owners’ push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the pre-season by two games; and benefits for retired players.

But the threat of a lockout has sped up the pace of negotiations.

After months of infrequent and sometimes contentious talks, the sides went more than two months without any formal bargaining until Feb. 5, the day before the Super Bowl. The sides met again once the next week, then called off a second meeting that had been scheduled for the following day.

Cohen said Thursday that the two sides had made “some progress” but “very strong differences remain.”

“We want a deal and our hope is it will get done as quickly as possible,” Smith said Friday.

And so does the city of Indianapolis, which is set to host its first Super Bowl next season.

“I hear that they expect to get it done,” Mayor Greg Ballard said during a visit to the stadium. “I’m glad that they’re talking, that they’re talking seriously. We feel that they’ll get it done.”

Watson tried to play a massive slice on the 334-yard hole with his driver, but it sailed far to the left and into a desert bush. He had to take a penalty drop and gave away the hole. Then with Kaymer long and right on the par-3 16th, Watson also missed the green and failed to get up-and-down for par, giving Kaymer a 2-up lead with two holes to play.

Watson made a 6-foot birdie putt on the 17th to stay in the match, but his shot from a fairway bunker on the 18th spun off the false front of the green. Kaymer went long, chipped to 8 feet and made the par.

“The matches I had were very difficult,” said Kaymer, who also went 18 holes in a 1-up win over Miguel Angel Jimenez in the quarterfinals earlier Saturday.

Not so for Donald, who headed to the gym during the final hour of the Kaymer match to work up a sweat. He hasn’t gotten too much of a workout on the golf course through five matches.

A win for Donald would move him up to a career-best No. 3 in the world.

“That would be an added bonus,” Donald said. “I’ll be concentrating on trying to beat whoever I’m playing against and trying to pick up a trophy.”

Donald has been nothing short of brilliant on his record-setting march to the final.

When he holed a short birdie putt on the par-5 13th to close out Kuchar, it was his 13th birdie in 27 holes he played in quarterfinal and semifinal matches. Donald has played only 73 holes in five matches, the fewest of anyone to reach the championship match in the 13-year history of this tournament. The previous record was 77 holes by Woods in 2003.

Donald became only the second finalist to have never seen the 18th hole in competition. Geoff Ogilvy in 2007 was the other. With the format change from 36 holes to 18 holes for Sunday, he could go the entire tournament without playing No. 18.

“Hopefully, I don’t get to it again tomorrow—the right way,” Donald said.

He has been so dominant that Donald has not trailed on a single hole all week—on only five of 73 holes has his match been all square.

“I’ve been stringing together a lot of good rounds, making birdies and not too many mistakes,” he said. “I’ve been tough to beat this week, and hopefully that can continue.”

Donald won three straight holes around the turn to build a big lead against Ryan Moore in the quarterfinals, winning 5 and 4. He looked even better against Kuchar, seizing the lead with a tee shot into 4 feet on the par-3 third hole, starting a stretch in which he won seven of the next eight holes.

“Had I got somebody else on today’s round, I may have still been able to come out with a win,” Kuchar said. “You face Luke Donald on a day he’s really hot, you pack your bags early.”

Donald has been hot all week.

Now comes Kaymer, whom he described as a steady, consistent player, as the last two years have shown.

“Like me, but hits it further,” Donald said with a smile.

There are a few other differences, too. Kaymer has a major, and he is about to be No. 1 in the world.



# Twins tame Lions in Majors

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND  
Walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The Marianas Health Service As Matusi Twins bested the Attorney Robert T. Torres Kagman Little Lions, 11-10, as the Saipan Little League Major's division season continued at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield over the weekend.

Other Majors division winners were the Docomo-Rep. Ramon Basa A's, Natibu Sports Association Tanapag Falcons, and Rep. Joseph P. DL Guerrero- Tan Siu Lin Foundation-Mike P. Tenorio Comets.

## Twins 11, Lions 10

The Lions broke the ice with a run off a passed ball in the first inning, but the Twins' Roke Tenorio answered with a deep two-run blast over the centerfield fence in the bottom frame; Blade Igitol came around with him to the plate. It was Tenorio's second home run of the season.

The Lions bit back with five runs to start the second. They loaded the bases right away, which set a two-RBI single by



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND  
The Twins' Roke Tenorio hits a deep two-run homer that cleared the centerfield fence during their game against the Lions in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League Baseball on Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

Jose Camacho. Jessie Kalen stepped in next and cleared the bases with a two-RBI triple and scored soon after off a wild pitch.

The Twins came up empty in the bottom half and the Lions went ahead, 7-2, off a RBI

double by Ernie Dela Cruz.

The Twins managed to get one run back in the bottom frame off a freebie walk with the bases loaded, and although they only came away with one, they managed to keep the Lions at bay in the fourth and

fifth innings.

Then the Twins came alive in the bottom of the fifth and took the lead, 10-7. The first two runs came off a wild pitch and an error. Then Tommy Cangco cleared the bases with a three-RBI double and scored later off a single by Igitol; a walk later, Igitol off a single by Jun Atalig.

The Lions clawed back and tied the game at 10-all in the top of the sixth off a RBI single by Kalen, followed by a RBI double by Bradley Pangelinan and another RBI base hit by Franco Masga.

Then the game went into extra innings after the Twins went 1-2-3 in bottom frame. The Twins forced the Lions 1-2-3 to start the seventh and the Twins won it off an error in the bottom frame.

## Docomo A's 10, Ol'Aces 2

The A's took an early 4-0 lead in the first inning off a RBI single by clean up man Donavin Ada, a two-RBI knock by Joseph Mogofna, and a RBI rip by Jordon Kosam.

The Aces did not answer o

start the second and the A's went ahead, 7-0, in the bottom frame off errors and passed balls.

The Aces went 1-2-3 to start the third and the A's added two more runs in the bottom of the inning off errors and a bean ball.

The Aces scored their first run off an error in the top of the fourth, but the A's got it back in the bottom of the fifth off a passed ball and contained the Aces to one run in the top of the last inning. The Aces managed to load the bases with two outs in their final stand, but could not capitalize on the effort.

## Falcons 9, Strikers 1

The Falcons built a 3-0 lead in the first inning off an error, passed ball, and a RBI single by Martin Logan.

Falcons pitcher Juan Quitugua struck out the side to start the second and his team added three runs to their lead in the bottom frame. The first two runs came off errors, while Frankie Lifofoi managed to steal home.

Strikers left a runner at third base to start the third inning and the Falcons went ahead, 7-0, in the bottom frame with a run

scored off an error.

After a quiet fourth, the Strikers manages their sole run off a passed ball to start the fifth, but the Falcons answered with two runs in the bottom frame off an error and a passed ball.

## Comets 17, McDonald's 2

The Comets cruised to an easy 17-2 win after McDonald's suffered 10 strikeouts in a total of only 15 plate appearances.

McDonald's four runners reached of a couple hits, a walk and an error. The Comets on the other hand batted through the line up four times and managed six hits all game. McDonald's allowed only two earned runs, but gave away 15 off passed balls, errors, and errant throws around the infield.

The Comets took advantage of virtually every scoring opportunity and left only three runners all game. The Comets scored three runs in the first off an error and singles by Kavika Semen and Vincent Taman.

Wining pitcher Erik Cruz was lights out and gave up one earned run, two hits, and a walk with 12 strikeouts.

## JAPANESE

From Page 28

downed Aoi Chida and Maasa Kimurya in similar fashion, 21-14, and knocked out U.S. pro Jennifer Snyder and Saipan's Melody Matson, 21-17, to advance to the semifinal.

In the semis, Kei Watanabe and Matsumura won over fellow Japan pros Remi Sudo and Kazuko Sugawara, 21-15. Last year's champ Sudo and

her new partner Sugawara finished third, while Sudo's 2010 co-champ Megumi Murakami teamed up with Erika Easak of Guam and finished fourth. American pro Angela Lewis and Amanda Matson of Saipan settled for fifth place, a notch ahead of Snyder and Melody Matson. Snyder finished sixth place last year as well.

In the men's division, Matsumoto and Hatabe went undefeated on their way to the finals. The eventual champions

held a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals and were forced to play in a do-or-die Game 2 after Saipan's Tyce Mister and Japanese pro Yujiro Nakaya nailed a 22-20 upset in Game 1.

Then the defending champions regrouped in the next match and went on to take it, 21-16, for back-to-back men's division titles.

American pro Paul Baxter and Saipan's Nick Gross finished third place in the men's field after falling to Mister and Nakaya, 18-21, in the loser's

bracket semifinals. The other U.S. pro, Billy Strickland, and Saipan's Todd Montgomery finished ninth despite the former's impressive debut in Friday's pro exhibition match.

The Top 16 teams from Saturday's pool play advanced to yesterday's double-elimination tournament. Game point for both men's and women's matches were set at 21 with a cap of 25, except for the finals matches when the cap limits were removed.

## US

From Page 28

in the opening match and even managed to lead in the extension. 23-22, but the Japanese recovered and made it to cap first, 25-24.

Then the Japanese pro established an early lead again in the second match and held on to secure the sweep, 21-16. Although much taller than their foes, the

U.S. pros looked a little out of sync during the game, and made a lot of unforced errors. Murakami and Kaneda on the other hand played to their strengths and successfully picked their opponents apart.

In the men's game, the U.S. pros swept their Japanese counterparts—Yasuo Nakaya and Yujiro Hikaka.

The 6'9" Stricktand was a wall at the net on defense and provided Baxter with a lot of

clean spike opportunities on offense. Baxter was in solid form once again, as the U.S. pros swiftly took the first set, 21-13.

Then Strickland and Baxter maintained a three to four-point cushion in the second set on their way to a 21-18 victory. Nakaya and Hikaka threw everything they had against the U.S pros, but most of their shots ended up being blocked by Strickland.

At one point in the exhibition match, Strickland blocked

three shots in a row. Strickland was called for a double-hit at game point in the last set, but Baxter delivered a big game-winning spike moments later to close the sweep.

Nearly 200 watched the exhibition match and waited patiently for the raffle drawing, which determined the teammates of the pros in the Pro-Am competition. Over 100 players competed in the weekend tournament.

## JACK

From Page 28

group with a time of 26:36. He won over Jon Cenir (27:55) and Shane Deleon Guerrero (35:18). Keolani Rios was top female finisher in the 14 to 19 division with a time of 50:47.

Kyle Rios topped the U13 division, which drew 18 runners. The younger Rios clocked in at 30:57, finishing ahead of William Camacho (33:48) and Troy Cosino (38:10). Joshalyn Flores was the top female finisher in the U13 with her 39:05.

Medals were awarded to the Top 3 finishers in all divisions.

All first place finishers also received IT&E gift bags, which had one t-shirt, water bottle, water park passes for Pacific Islands Club, and various gift cards. All participants went home with a Cupid Fun Run t-shirt provided by Rock Steady.

RBC's Justin Cadiang won a cell phone from Docomo Pacific for correctly answering some trivia questions after the race.

"We would like to thank all the participants and families for their unconditional support, the Division of Youth Services, IT&E, Rock Steady,

Docomo Pacific, Pacific Islands Club, National Office Supply, National Alamo Rent-A-Car, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Hyatt Regency, Saipan Grand Hotel, timekeeper Elias Rangamar, and the Unified Basketball Association's Hoopaholics team for helping man water stations with my older Rollers members during the event," RBC head coach Joe Diaz said.

Diaz expressed satisfaction with the turnout of the race. He was also optimistic about making the RBC Cupid Fun Run an annual fundraising event.

Half the proceeds of the Cupid Fun Run are going to help

cover accommodation and transportation expenses for the Rollers U18's trip to Guam where they will compete in the March Madness Pacific Regional Basketball Invitational tournament at the Andersen Air Force base from March 20 to March 26. The other half will be set aside for RBC U16 Rollers' trip to Anaheim, California for the 2012 Coca-Cola National Invitational Youth Basketball Tournament.

After the March Madness, RBC is considering organizing a two-weekend long 21 to 25 age division tournament. More details will be released later.

## YVONNE

From Page 28

pany's time was enough to eclipse the 3:45.60 Dommell Butler, Stacia Neeley, Crystal Young and Sabrina Johnson logged for BSU in an indoor tournament in 1988.

Besides the 4x400m relay run, the 20-year-old Bennett also joined the 200m race and timed in at 57.84 seconds, fourth best among eight BSU runners who participated in the event and 15th fastest among 25 runners.

Bennett's BSU women's track team went on to finish fourth overall in the indoor meet held from Feb. 24 to 26 at the Idaho Center/Jackson Track in Boise, Idaho.

The Bronco women's track squad collected 60 points in the eight-team field. Point were awarded based on how participants from each school finished in their respective events.

Louisiana Tech ruled the competition with its 133 points, followed by Utah State (132),

and Nevada (88). Other schools that joined the NCAA Division I-sanctioned tournament were New Mexico State (68.50), Fresno State (67), University Hawaii-Manoa (48.50), and University of Idaho (44).

In the men's division, BSU was tied for first with Utah State, as the two schools collected 177 points each. Louisiana Tech was second with 94 points, while Idaho placed third with 69 points.

Bennett tried out for BSU after her record-breaking runs in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last year. In the Micro Games, the former Kagman High School student won five gold medals (100m, 200m, and 400m run and 4x400m and 4x100m relay races). She also set a CNMI national record of 12.68 seconds in Palau, earning her the Micronesia's fastest woman tag.

Bennett's successful exploits in Palau gave her the 2010 NMASA Female Athlete of the Year Award, the third straight year she took the coveted individual trophy.



## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	42	15	.737	—
New York	29	27	.518	12 1/2
Philadelphia	29	29	.500	13 1/2
New Jersey	17	42	.288	26
Toronto	16	43	.271	27

Southeast Division

Miami	43	16	.729	—
Orlando	37	22	.627	6
Atlanta	35	23	.603	7 1/2
Charlotte	26	32	.448	16 1/2
Washington	15	43	.259	27 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	40	17	.702	—
Indiana	26	31	.456	14
Milwaukee	22	36	.379	18 1/2
Detroit	22	39	.361	20
Cleveland	11	47	.190	29 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	48	10	.828	—
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Dallas

New Orleans

Memphis

Houston

42

35

33

29

16

25

27

31

.724

.583

.550

.483

6

14

16

20

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City

Portland

Denver

Utah

Minnesota

36

33

34

32

13

21

25

26

28

46

.632

.569

.567

.533

.220

—

3 1/2

3 1/2

5 1/2

24

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers

Phoenix

Golden State

L.A. Clippers

Sacramento

41

29

26

21

14

19

27

31

39

43

.683

.518

.456

.350

.246

—

10

13 1/2

20

25 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 120, Utah 116

Memphis 120, Sacramento 92

Dallas 105, Washington 99

Houston 123, New Jersey 108

Chicago 83, Milwaukee 75

Boston 99, L.A. Clippers 92

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Weekend Sports

**T**he week showcased the CNMI's promising talent in youth sports.

First to step up was the Saipan International School girls volleyball team that won the 2010-2011 MISO Volleyball League after surviving Marianas High School 1 in the finals at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Lady Geckos lost Game 1 of the finals for their first defeat of the season, but went on to recover in Game 2 to clinch the championship in the six-team field.

Then over at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, MHS 2 claimed the 2010-2011 MISO Girls Var-

# Youth power reigns

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER

sity Soccer League championship after beating Kagman High School in the finals.

More youth sports talents were seen at the three various tennis courts on Saipan with the staging of the final week of the 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic. Crowned junior champions were Rafael Jones

and Theecel Minor (U18), Jake Lee and Mikayla Lopez (U15), Moris Villanueva and Tammy Ackerman (U12), and Luther Lizama and Julia Ishikawa (U10). Ackerman then teamed up with Peter Loyola to win the mixed up doubles, while Jeff Race and Lydia Tan topped the men's and women's

singles. Dong Min Lee ruled the 45-and-above singles.

In the Saipan Little League Baseball, which is for U18 sluggers, action continued with the unbeaten teams keeping their streak.

Still in baseball, the St. Michael Angels stunned defending champion Fielders, while

softball action in the Chamolinian and Belau leagues heated up last week.

In basketball, Mobil recorded the biggest win of the week after pulling off an upset over the then undefeated NMC Proa, 93-73.

Still in basketball, the Micronesian Basketball Confederation announced the staging

of the Micronesian Basketball Tournament U15 Western Division from June 20 to 24 in Palau.

The CNMI will be participating in the youth caging so Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands will be holding an open tryout to select a pool of players who will represent the Commonwealth in the various youth tournaments.

In bowling, Ron Cal, Robert Talavera, and M.J. Aldan ruled the February roll-offs.

In beach volleyball, pros from Japan and the U.S. arrived last week to compete in the 9th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Pro-Am Tournament.



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Senior members of Marianas High School 2 pose with their championship trophy after beating Kagman High School in the MISO soccer league at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School players pose with their banner after beating Marianas High School 1 in the finals of the MISO volleyball league at the MHS Gymnasium.



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

NMIVA president Laurie Peterka, center poses with U.S. beach volleyball pros who competed in last weekend's Marianas Cup.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Luther Lizama prepares to serve against Alfie Madlambayan during their U10 singles game in the 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis courts.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Negahr Rastgui, right, congratulates Peter Loken after their semis game in the mixed up doubles event of the 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis courts. Waiting for her turn was Loken's teammate Emily Jones. Rastgui teamed up with Lydia Tan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes M.J. Aldan is flanked by runners-up John Taisacan, left, and Greg Sablan.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman goes for a layup against NMC Proa's Jack Lizama, left, and Pete Mendiola, right, during their game in the UBA/Docomo caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



**Celtics hold off Clippers for latest road win**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Youth power reigns**

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28 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Japanese dominate Marianas Cup

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

Japan pros Kei Watanabe and Miyuki Matsumura and 2010 men's champions Daisuke Matsumoto and Jenki Hatabe won the 19th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Pro-Am Tournament in front of over 250 spectators at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand court yesterday.



Kei Watanabe and Matsumura defeated Japanese pro Hiruyo Kaneda and University of Hawaii player Ashley Watanabe, 21-16, in the first double-elimination finals match to force a second finals match, which they won in sudden death, 22-20.

Kaneda and Ashley Watanabe made it through four games to advance to the finals unscathed, but fell apart at crunch time.

After falling to the 2011 women's runner-ups in the second round yesterday, 19-21, Kei Watanabe and Matsumura valiantly fought through the loser's bracket, defeating Amber Roberts and Toni Yumada, 21-14. The eventual champions then

See JAPANESE on Page 26



Daisuke Matsumoto, right, battles fellow Japanese pro Yujiro Nakaya at the net during their championship game in the 19th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Pro-Am Tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand court yesterday.



From left, pros Megumi Murakami, Hiroyo Kaneda, Angela Lewis, and Jenn Snyder pose for a group photo after their exhibition game in the 19th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival on Friday night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand court.

### US, Japan pros split exhibition games

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

Japan's female duo Megumi Murakami and Hiroyo Kaneda and U.S. pros Paul Baxter and Billy Strickland displayed dominant performances in Friday's exhibition games at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand court to heat up the action in the 19th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival.

Female pros took the court first and Murakami and Kaneda gained an early lead

and managed to thwart the tandem of Jennifer Snyder and Angela Lewis of the U.S. for the victory.

Snyder and Lewis flirted with numerous comeback attempts, but could not manage to get past the Japan duo. Every time the U.S. pros tied the game, the Japanese answered back. Game point for the first two sets was set at 21 with a cap to 25 and the final match was set at 15 with no cap. Snyder and Lewis forced overtime

See US on Page 26

### Yvonne helps Boise State set record



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Yvonne Bennett, seen here in the 100m run in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last year, was part of Boise State University's record-breaking 4x400m relay team.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The CNMI's Yvonne Bennett raced for Boise State University in the 2011 Western Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships and helped the Bronco crush the 23-year-old record in the 4x400m women's relay run.

Bennett teamed up with Mackenzie Flannigan, Cyntail Pierce, and Taryn Campos and the quartet completed the 4x400m relay race in three minutes, 44.64 seconds for a runner-up finish against Louisiana Tech.

The Bronco women's relay squad was a second behind Louisiana Tech, which posted 3:43.64, but Bennett and com-

See YVONNE on Page 26

## Jack, Mamiko top RBC Cupid Fun Run

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

Veteran runners Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Mamiko Oshima-Berger won the men's and women's divisions of the Rollers

Basketball Club's 5K Cupid Fun Run on Saturday.

Kabiriel completed the race from the Civic Center in Susupe to the Garapan Basketball Court in 22 minutes and 34 seconds to

lead 43 finishers, while Oshima-Berger submitted 23:05 to win the women's division against Irma Halaby (30:28).

Tamio Nishikido won the 13-member 30 to 60 masters

division with a time of 22:56, beating Ronald Villafria (24:01) and Steven Pixley (24:19).

In the youth division, Kwon Dixon prevailed over eight other runners in the 14 to 19 age

See JACK on Page 26



Participants in Saturday's Rollers Basketball Club 5K Cupid Fun Run pose for a group photo after the race at the Garapan Basketball Court.